



## ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

“Chairman Derek Merrin, Vice Chairman Don Manning, Ranking Member Janine Boyd and Members of the House Health Committee.”

I have been incredibly blessed to serve two great churches as Senior Pastor from 1996 until 2018. In those years, serving thousands of wonderful people in beautiful Ohio communities, I have witnessed many things affect and sometimes bring great harm to the precious families that I have served. Pornography is one of those evils.

According to a 2015 Barna Group poll, one in three Americans seek out pornography at least once a month. Among generational groups, young adults ages 18-24 are the most frequent consumers of pornography. Some 40 million adults regularly view porn in the United States. Furthermore, since the 1980's, the largest consumers of pornography have been teenage boys between the ages of 12 and 17 who are not even included in the Barna Group data.

According to another 2015 report by Covenant Eyes, 68 percent of young men and 18 percent of young women view pornography every week. Covenant Eyes also has an ongoing count of the number of internet porn searches since the beginning of 2015, which is over 6 billion and climbing.

As we come to a better understanding of pornography's effect on the brain, I shudder to think of my sweet grandchildren losing their innocence and worse yet being drawn in and held captive by the grip of this sinister and unforgiving menace by playing on their parents I Phone.

Declaring the public health crisis is a tremendous first step in raising the level of awareness throughout the state which will set in motion the much-needed education, prevention, research, and policy changes enabling the communities of Ohio can confront and defeat this devastating and harmful influence for the sake of generations of Ohioans to come. I urge support of HB 180.

Midwest Regional Director for Church Ministries  
The Family Research Council