

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR 6016



My name is Steve Brunk and I'm here representing the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas. We regularly communicate with thousands of individuals and families across our state as we work to make Kansas a state where God is honored because every life is cherished, religious liberty flourishes, and families thrive. I come before you today to urge you to **support HCR 6016**.

About 50 years ago, Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart said that while he would not try to define what is and isn't pornography, "I know it when I see it."

Stewart's line has since become one of the most famous in American law. The phrase's power stems from its basis in the idea that there are universally shared truths accessible to anyone through reason and conscience. Kansans call this "common sense."

This morning, the committee has heard expert testimony citing peer-reviewed scientific sources from a range of fields, including neuroscience, psychology, and criminal justice. The data show that pornography correlates with a wide range of negative public health outcomes including violence against women, child abuse, divorce, prostitution, sex trafficking, and addiction. The scientific case against pornography is conclusive: pornography is a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms.

But there's another dimension to this issue that brings us back to Justice Stewart. You don't need to rely on the weight of scientific research to know that pornography is bad for Kansas; you know it when you see it.

As a husband, I don't have to ask my wife how she would feel if I started using pornography. I know the answer.

As the father of an adult son and daughter, I don't have to do research to know that I don't want them to engage in a marriage ending addiction.

As the grandfather to two impressionable twin 6-year-old girls, I already know that I don't want them growing up to be porn stars.

Pornography is harmful. The science says so, and so does common sense.

Family Policy Alliance of Kansas urges the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs to pass HR 6016 and move the resolution swiftly to a floor vote.

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