

February 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

As a parent and licensed professional counselor, I support the creation of a Children's Internet Protection Registry in our state.

Most of my clinical work involves adults and families who are seeking help for struggles with pornography. I give regular presentations about internet safety, and often hear stories from parents about incidents when their young children were exposed to explicit content online.

One parent that I spoke with was disturbed that an 8-year-old child had been teaching other young children how to access hardcore pornography and erase the internet history. Sadly, many children today are being exposed to pornographic videos and images online, which are often hardcore, violent and degrading.

- A recent survey of 14 to 16-year-old students indicated that nearly one-third of the students had viewed pornography when they were 10 years old or younger. (Psychologies Magazine, Aug. 2010)
- According to research in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*, viewing pornography leads to: beliefs that superior sexual pleasure is attainable without affection towards partners, beliefs that promiscuity is the natural state, and cynical attitudes about love. (*Journal of Adolescent Health*, Aug. 2000)
- According to psychiatrist and researcher Norman Doidge, MD, pornography hyper-activates the appetitive system in the brain, which "is largely dopamine-related." (N. Doidge, *The Brain that Changes Itself*, 2007)

I am glad that the Children's Internet Protection Registry would provide a useful tool for parents looking to protect their children from the marketing of pornography, gambling, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug products. I would encourage the members of this committee to vote in favor of the Children's Internet Protection Registry. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Meier', followed by the printed text 'MA, LPC'.

Sam Meier, MA, LPC