



Family Concerns

"Bridging the Information Gap"

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Are Strip Clubs and "Adult Entertainment" Good For Society?

Is it consenting adults just having some harmless fun?

Recently CWA of Kansas had the opportunity to testify in favor of several bills that are crucial to stemming the tide of pornography and adult entertainment . . . both of which are feeding the human trafficking crisis world-wide. One of the bills, SB 549, dealt with restitution for victims of child pornography; another, Sub. S353, dealt with increased penalties for human trafficking, most of which is women and children used in the sex industry, and a bill that limits activities of adult sex businesses, HB 2633. One of CWA's core issues is pornography and the harm it does to the family, to women and children, not to mention the men who become addicted and who often act out in real situations the images they have seen. Human trafficking is the second largest illicit activity in the world, second only to drugs according to the United Nations. 14,500 to 17,000 women and children are trafficked into the United States every year, with other women and children being domestically trafficked. These are appalling statistics in a world that prides itself on being more "civilized" than previous generations.

The force driving the sex industry statistics

The driving force behind these statistics is the proliferation of sexually-explicit materials and businesses that provide "adult" entertainment. Interestingly the very term "adult" entertainment implies that it is okay for adults to engage in this activity, that it is a rite of passage for the virile adult male. Nothing could be further from the truth, and our society is paying a tremendous price for this illusion. Ignoring the very real implications of hiding our eyes from activities that we would not engage in is very similar to the statement, "I wouldn't have an abortion myself, but don't want to prevent someone else from having one if they choose." This philosophy ignores citizens' absolute responsibility to provide for the general welfare and to protect citizens from harm. Ignoring these problems teaches future generations that consumption of pornography by men, women and children does not deserve legal attention, the sexual exploitation of humans, particularly women, is normal and acceptable and that sex can be detached from love and commitment and is merely recreation.

The younger generation

It also has a chilling effect on our young people . . . the emerging adult population. Research shows that:

- Almost two thirds (67 percent) of young adult males find pornography use acceptable.
- 49 percent of young adult females find it acceptable.
- More young adult males use pornography than females. (87-31 percent).

- For males more pornography use is correlated with more sex partners, more alcohol use, more binge drinking, greater acceptance of sex outside of marriage for married individuals, greater acceptance of sex before marriage and less child centeredness during marriage.

[Carroll, J.S., Padilla-Walker, L.M., Nelson, L.J., Olson, C.D, Barry, C.M., & Madsen, S. (2008). Generation XXX: Pornography Acceptance and Use among Emerging Adults. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 23, 1, 6-30]

Adult married men

In adult married males, men who are involved in pornography feel less satisfied with their marriages and less emotionally attached to their wives, causing the wives to feel less secure in the marriage. Both spouses when questioned agreed that pornography viewing is tantamount to infidelity. Pornography viewing also leads to a loss of interest in good family relations; this hurts the children. [Patrick Fagan, PhD., "The Effects of Pornography on Individuals, Marriage, Family and Community" Family Research Council Research Synthesis, December 2009]

Stable families need to be protected

A strong society depends upon stable families, committed parents protecting their children and public policy that upholds values that support stable families. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Paris Adult Theatre I v. Slaton*, 413 U.S. 49, at 59-60 (1973), that the people have a right to maintain a decent society. In a landmark obscenity case, *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15,23,34-35 (1973) the U.S. Supreme Court said, "This much has been categorically settled by the Court, that obscene material is unprotected by the First Amendment."

Americans want limits

In fact, there is strong public support for limiting pornographic material and "adult" pornographic activity, both participatory and acting as a spectator. A recent Harris survey showed that 76 percent of U.S. adults disagree that "viewing hardcore adult pornography on the Internet is morally acceptable: and generally, harmless entertainment." The survey conducted by Morality in Media shows that only 15 percent agree that such viewing is "morally acceptable" and 18 percent agree that such viewing "provides generally, harmless entertainment." A Wirthlin Worldwide poll in 2002 and 2004 show that in 2002 82 percent and 81 percent in 2004 agreed with the statement that Federal law against Internet obscenity should be vigorously enforced.

A cause for concern

Pornography clearly undermines the family and close relationships essential to a stable society and should be a cause for concern for every citizen.

More in next *Family Concerns*.