

# PROCLAMATION

White Ribbon Against Pornography Week

Sunday, October 30 through Sunday, November 6, 2016

WHEREAS, women are exploited, degraded, subjected to verbal and physical abuse, and exposed to sexually transmitted diseases in the production of hardcore pornography; and

WHEREAS, pornography presents youth with a distorted, debased and often violent image of human sexuality, devoid of love, responsibility and commitment; and

WHEREAS, children molest other children in imitation of what they see in pornography; and

WHEREAS, addiction to pornography prevents, damages and destroys marriages;

WHEREAS, addiction to pornography contributes to sexual violence against women and contributes to the demand for women and children trafficked into prostitution; and

WHEREAS, addiction to pornography contributes to on-the-job sexual harassment and to a decline in worker productivity; and

WHEREAS, for many individuals, both young and old, there is a progression from viewing adult pornography to viewing child pornography; and

WHEREAS, adult pornography is used by sexual predators both to stimulate themselves and to “groom” (entice, desensitize and instruct) their child victims; and

WHEREAS, in *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15 (1973), the Supreme Court stated, “This much has been categorically settled, that obscene material is unprotected by the First Amendment” (at 23) and that “to equate the free and robust exchange of ideas and political debate with commercial exploitation of obscene material demeans the grand conception of the First Amendment and its high purposes in the historic struggle for freedom” (at 34).

WHEREAS, in *Paris Adult Theatre I v. Slaton*, 413 U.S. 49, 57 (1973), the Court stated that there are “legitimate state interests at stake in stemming the tide of commercialized obscenity, even assuming it is feasible to” shield children from this material. These include:

(1) Protecting ‘the quality of life and total community environment’ (at 58);

(2) Protecting ‘public safety’ (at 58);

(3) Maintaining ‘a decent society’ (at 59-60);

(4) Protecting ‘the social interest in order and morality’ (at 61); and

(5) Protecting ‘family life’ (at 63).

NOW THEREFORE, I, Governor \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim October 30 through November 6, 2016, as WHITE RIBBON AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY WEEK in the State of \_\_\_\_\_, and call upon all citizens to wear or display white ribbons as a sign of their commitment to community standards of decency and their support for enforcement of the laws against obscene materials.

S11n0Ev!!