

Craig Cobia's Testimony

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To: Representative Julianne Young <jyoung@house.idaho.gov>; Stephanie Gifford <sjbgifford@hotmail.com>

HB522

Chairman Mortimer and Senate education committee. Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today.

My name is Dr. Craig Cobia, my wife and I have lived in Sugar City for over 26 years, and I work full time for a financial institution in Rexburg. I ~~am~~ took a vacation day, drove about 5 hours, to be with the House Education Committee on this topic, however I am unavailable today. I am a husband, father, grandfather, and a volunteer for Citizens for Decency who's goal is to empower people to take a stand against pornography.

Citizens for Decency was started ten years ago at the request of a mother of 8 children, living near Rexburg, who she said her husband took his life, as a direct result of his pornography addiction. She approached me and asked that I do something so other families and individual may be protected from pornography.

Recently on Saturday February 22, from 1-4 pm we had speakers travel from across the US, and speak to as many as 450 people in Blackfoot, who are interested in this topic. In November of 2018 we had a conference in Rexburg on the same topics at which we had 300 people attend the morning session, 800 in the afternoon, with over 400 hours of YouTube viewing of the conference. It is obvious that many Idahoans across the state are recognizing the threat that pornography and obscenity are posing to our most precious and vulnerable children who are the hope of of our future.

I would encourage you to vote yes for HB 522 that online research databases, used in the k-12 system, such as Ebsco, gale, and lilli.org to prevent school children from viewing obscene material, which has been upheld by the US Supreme Court, as harmful to minors.

Research is emerging that shows people of all ages may become addicted to viewing of obscenity. We should protect minors from obscenity that is harmful to them.

In these hallowed halls, the Idaho legislature has passed the following bills or resolutions to protect our Idaho children from obscenity:

- Resolutions proclaiming pornography as a public health crisis
- Bill requiring all Idaho K-12 school computers to filter pornographic content
- Idaho Public Libraries filter act which requires pornography to be filtered from library computers for children. At the hearing of this bill, one of the persons who testified, was a

college student who became addicted to pornography, as a child, in the Rexburg community library, on their computers, before the filter statute was incorporated.

-Wi fi amendment which now requires all Idaho public libraries to filter pornography for adults and children.

At the time when passing these bills we thought that all content flowing through or from databases such as EBSCO or Gale or through lilli.org would also respect our statute and filters. However apparently, new legislation is needed, to ensure the filtering occurs, since it is not occurring now.

I urge swift passage of HB 522 so you may add to your legacy of protecting children from things from which they cannot protect themselves. If not us, who? If not now, when?

Thank you.

Craig Cobia
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Citizens for Decency
501(c)3 nonprofit organization
Headquartered in Rexburg, Idaho