

October 2, 2021

Campbell County Commissioners

RE: opinion on the exposure of children to pornographic materials

Dear Commissioners:

I've been made aware of growing public concern over the availability of sexually explicit reading materials in the children and teen section of the local public library. As concerns the present debate about whether these materials should be made available to children and adolescents, I have been asked to provide my professional opinion on the matter. Specifically, I have been asked if exposure to pornographic or sexually explicit media has the potential to cause psychological harm to this apparent target audience of minors. In a word, yes, and greatly so. With abundant scientific literature, accumulated over the years concerning the problem of pornography addiction in adults, why would we not consider the harm of pornography exposure to the developing brain? One must also question the motives of those adults who make these attempts to prematurely sexualize children. There appears to be no decent rationale for this, and simple depravity seems an inadequate explanation for the systematic nature of these attempts to normalize the sexualization of minors. A reasonable person would rightly question whether these initiatives – and the resistance of the governing board to correct the problem – represents a more sinister form of social engineering. Based upon my review of some of the reading materials in question, I believe that the introduction of pornographic media into the children and adolescent sections of the library should be a *call to arms* for the parents and reasonable adults in this community. Protecting our children is a duty. It is apparent that we cannot rely upon federal and state government to provide that protection. That duty, as it should be, falls primarily to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Walter, M.D.", with a stylized, cursive script.

Mark Walter, M.D.

(Board-certified psychiatrist and Campbell County resident)