

Governor \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RE: Proclamation to be issued in conjunction with  
WHITE RIBBON AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY WEEK 2007**

Dear Governor \_\_\_\_\_:

**I am writing to ask you to issue a Proclamation (sample enclosed) in conjunction with White Ribbon Against Pornography Week, which runs Sunday, Oct. 28, through Sunday, Nov. 4, 2007.**

In *Miller v. California*, 413 U.S. 15, the Supreme Court held that “obscene material is unprotected by the First Amendment.” The *Miller* Court went on to say, “[T]o 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... It is a ‘misuse of the great guarantees of free speech.’”

Clearly, our nation’s children are a primary concern, and evidence abounds that many children are being exposed to pornography, especially on the Internet. According to a study conducted by the Crimes Against Children’s Resource Center, the percentage of Internet users ages 10-17 who were exposed to unwanted pornography in the previous year increased from 25% in 2000 to 34% in 2005. According to a survey conducted in 2004 by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 45% of teens have friends who regularly view pornography on the Internet.

But even assuming that children could effectively be shielded from the floodtide of hardcore pornography, there would still be grievous harms to individuals and society, because the distribution and consumption of (and addiction to) hardcore pornography:

- Contribute to the epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS
- Contribute to the decline in marriages and the breakup of marriages
- Contribute to a decline in worker productivity and sexual harassment
- Contribute to sex crimes against adults and children
- Contribute to the breakdown of morality and erosion of decency
- Contribute to the coffers of organized crime

We are encouraged that the United States Justice Department is once again targeting commercial distributors of obscenity but there is also an important role for the states in protecting our communities, and homes and children from addictive and destructive and illegal hardcore pornography.

I would appreciate a response to this letter.

Sincerely,

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# **Proposed Governor's Proclamation for White Ribbon Against Pornography Week, Sunday, October 28 through Sunday, November 4, 2007**

WHEREAS, pornography degrades and dehumanizes both female and male participants; and

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

WHEREAS, pornography leads both children and adults into destructive sexual addictions that tear families apart and destroy careers; and

WHEREAS, the strength of our nation depends on the generational stability and moral order found and nurtured in families; and

WHEREAS, pornography features and promotes rape and other anti-social behaviors in an era of increasing sexual violence and an epidemic of sexually transmitted disease; and

WHEREAS, children are increasingly molesting other children in imitation of what they have seen in pornography; and

WHEREAS, so-called "adult" pornography is commonly used by pedophiles to desensitize children and break down their resistance to sexual acts; and

WHEREAS, according to a study conducted by the Crimes Against Children's Resource Center, the percentage of Internet users ages 10-17 who were exposed to unwanted pornography in the previous year increased from 25% in 2000 to 34% in 2005; and.

WHEREAS, according to a survey conducted in 2004 by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 45% of teens have friends who regularly view and download pornography from the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has ruled that obscenity is not protected speech under the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Federal and State obscenity laws have been enacted against hardcore pornography to protect public safety, public health, and public morality; and

WHEREAS, a poll conducted by Harris Interactive in November 2005 found that 77% of adult Americans surveyed supported the Justice Department's crackdown on obscene materials,

NOW THEREFORE I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby proclaim October 28 through November 4, 2007, as WHITE RIBBONS AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY WEEK in \_\_\_\_\_ and call upon all citizens of \_\_\_\_\_ to wear or display white ribbons as a sign of their commitment to standards of public morality and their support for enforcement of the laws against obscenity.