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Testimony in Support of Senate Resolution 1723

**Presented to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
By Assistant Attorney General Pat Colloton
Chair, Human Trafficking Advisory Board**

March 16, 20107

Chairman LaTurner and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Resolution 1723.

Shared Hope International, a victim advocacy group that seeks to end sex trafficking and exploitation of women and children worldwide, has indicated that pornography is a gateway for the demand for human sex trafficking (Shared Hope International. (2012) *Demand. A Comparative Examination of Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Jamaica, Japan, the Netherlands and the United States.*) While human trafficking is a worldwide problem, many are unaware that victims are often filmed and forced to be on camera which eventually ends up online. Sexually exploited women and children are often used for the production of pornography without their consent. Some victims are trafficked specifically for the use in the production of pornography. Additionally, according to the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, traffickers show pornography to sex trafficking victims to train them and desensitize them to sex acts they will be forced to perform. (National Center on Sexual Exploitation. (2015) *Pornography + Sex Trafficking: The Facts.*)

The ease and convenience of the internet makes the distribution and consumption of pornography easier than ever. New technologies such as webcams, digital cameras and smart phones have made it easier for perpetrators to produce, access and trade images. More sophisticated storage devices enable offenders to collect an unprecedented volume of images. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), 19% of identified offenders in a survey had images of children younger than 3 years old; 39% had images of children younger than 6 years old; and 83% had images of children younger than 12 years old. Reports to their CyberTipline include images of sexual assaults of toddlers and even infants. Since the program began in 2002, NCMEC's Child Victim Identification Program, which helps to locate and rescue child victims in abusive images, has reviewed more than 192 million images and videos and law enforcement has identified more than 12,500 child victims.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.