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To Whom It May Concern:

We write to heartily endorse the new book, *Addictions: Halocho and Hashkofo*, written by our esteemed colleague, Rabbi Yehoshua Kaganoff.

This volume is a compendium of important source material on a number of painful, but extremely important, problems in the contemporary Orthodox Jewish communities. These problems include addictions and sexual abuse. Rabbi Kaganoff is among the courageous rabbis who have recognized and shown concern for these issues. Furthermore, he has dealt with these issues head on. He has become thoroughly familiar with the nature of these problems and with ways to deal with them. His book contains source material which will help educate the public, especially the rabbinate, in many aspects of these problems. He emphasizes the fact, for example, that addictions are an illness and not just a spiritual or moral failing. He presents the evidence for effective cures. He elaborates in erudite detail as to the halachic aspects and ramifications of cooperating with secular counselors and civil authorities. He includes the discussions and debates that he has had with a number of expert halachic decisors, and he demonstrates his own halachic expertise in these dialogues.

It must be stressed that this *sefer* is not easy to read – it is disturbing because it faces ugly problems head on. It will be an eye-opener for many readers, and indeed it is the author's intention to open the eyes of the reader as to the seriousness of these issues, their prevalence and nature, and the ways to deal with them.

His research into both the scientific and halachic aspects of these problems is extensive and persuasive. We recommend this pioneering work to all who toil in the vineyards of the Jewish community and who are ready to confront these troublesome and unfortunate realities.

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