
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 519 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, QUIGLEY, READSHAW, DEAN, BIZZARRO, MURT,
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V. BROWN, DeLUCA, MENTZER, DRISCOLL, STAATS, B. MILLER,
PHILLIPS-HILL AND CONKLIN, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing pornography as a public health hazard leading to a
2 broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and
3 societal harms.

4 WHEREAS, Pornography is creating a public health crisis and
5 its harms are beyond the capability of the individual to address
6 alone; and

7 WHEREAS, Efforts to prevent pornography exposure and
8 addiction, educate individuals and families concerning its harms
9 and develop recovery programs must be addressed systemically in
10 ways that hold broader influences accountable in order to
11 counter the sexually toxic environment it perpetuates; and

12 WHEREAS, Pornography is contributing to the
13 hypersexualization of teenagers and prepubescent children in our
14 society; and

15 WHEREAS, Due to the advances in technology and the universal
16 availability of the Internet, young children are exposed to what

1 used to be referred to as hardcore pornography at an alarming
2 rate, with 27% of older millennials reporting that they first
3 viewed pornography before puberty; and

4 WHEREAS, Viewing pornography at a young age leads to low
5 self-esteem, eating disorders, an increase in problematic sexual
6 activity at younger ages and an increased desire to engage in
7 risky sexual behavior as young adolescents; and

8 WHEREAS, Children and youths are exposed to pornography that
9 often serves as sex education and shapes sexual templates; and

10 WHEREAS, Pornography treats women as objects and commodities
11 for the viewer's use, teaching girls that they are objects to be
12 used and teaching boys that this is acceptable behavior; and

13 WHEREAS, Pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women
14 and children, treats women and children as objects and often
15 depicts rape and abuse as harmless; and

16 WHEREAS, Pornography equates torment and violence against
17 women and children with pleasure, increasing the demand for sex
18 trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse images and child
19 pornography; and

20 WHEREAS, Pornography has potential detrimental effects on the
21 user, including emotional, mental and medical illnesses, shaping
22 deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming or maintaining
23 intimate relationships, brain development and functioning,
24 problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

25 WHEREAS, Recent research indicates that pornography is
26 potentially biologically addictive, meaning the user requires
27 more novelty, which is often more shocking material, in order to
28 be satisfied, leading to increasing themes of risky sexual
29 behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, child sexual abuse
30 images and child pornography; and

1 WHEREAS, Pornography use has a detrimental effect on the
2 family as it is linked to lessening desire in young men to
3 marry, dissatisfaction in marriage and infidelity; therefore be
4 it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that
6 pornography is a public health hazard leading to a broad
7 spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal
8 harms; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That, in recognizing the public health crisis
10 created by pornography, the House of Representatives acknowledge
11 the need for education, prevention, research and policy change
12 at the community and societal level in order to address the
13 epidemic that is harming the people of our State and our country
14 as a whole.