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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 519 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY BAKER, QUIGLEY, MURT, RYAN, JAMES, FEE, CUTLER,  
RAPP, DUSH, SONNEY, DIGIROLAMO, MILLARD, SAYLOR, KAUFFMAN,  
WARD, PICKETT, MARSICO, MENTZER, STAATS, B. MILLER, PHILLIPS-  
HILL, GILLEN, WHEELAND AND WATSON, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

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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  
17 used to be referred to as hardcore pornography at an alarming

1 rate, with 27% of older millennials reporting that they first  
2 viewed pornography before puberty; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, Pornography use has a detrimental effect on the

1 family as it is linked to lessening desire in young men to  
2 marry, dissatisfaction in marriage and infidelity; therefore be  
3 it

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

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