

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 519 Session of 2017

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, WATSON, NELSON, C. QUINN AND BARBIN, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JANUARY 23, 2018

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 FOR <--
5 YOUNG PENNSYLVANIANS and its harms are beyond the capability of
6 the individual to address alone; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Due to the advances in technology and the universal

1 availability of the Internet, young children are exposed to what
2 used to be referred to as hardcore pornography at an alarming
3 rate, with 27% of older millennials reporting that they first
4 viewed pornography before puberty; and

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

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, Pornography has ~~potential~~ DEMONSTRATED detrimental <--
22 effects on ~~the user~~ THOSE WHO ARE EXPOSED AT A YOUNG AGE, <--
23 including emotional, mental and medical illnesses, shaping
24 deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming or maintaining
25 intimate relationships, brain development and functioning,
26 problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

27 WHEREAS, Recent research indicates that pornography is
28 potentially biologically addictive, meaning the user requires
29 more novelty, which is often more shocking material, in order to
30 be satisfied, leading to increasing themes of risky sexual

1 behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, child sexual abuse
2 images and child pornography; and

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

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize that
8 EXPOSURE TO pornography IN THE TEENAGE AND PREPUBESCENT YEARS is <--
9 a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual
10 and public health impacts and societal harms; and be it further

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