

1 HJR136
2 187676-1
3 By Representative Mooney
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 01-FEB-18

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8 RECOGNIZING PORNOGRAPHY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN
9 ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, the harms of pornography are beyond the
12 capability of an individual to address alone; efforts to
13 prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate
14 individuals and families concerning its harms, and to develop
15 recovery programs must be addressed systematically in ways
16 that hold broader influences accountable in order to counter
17 the sexually toxic environment pornography perpetuates; and

18 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the
19 hyper-sexualization of teens and prepubescent children in our
20 society; due to advances in technology and the universal
21 availability of the Internet, young children are exposed to
22 hard core pornography at alarming rates leading to low
23 self-esteem and eating disorders, an increase in problematic
24 sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire to
25 engage in risky sexual behavior as young adolescents; and

1 WHEREAS, because pornography treats women as objects
2 and commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls they
3 are to be used and boys to be the users;

4 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse
5 of women and children and often depicts rape and abuse as
6 harmless; it equates violence towards women and children with
7 sex and pain with pleasure, increasing the demand for sex
8 trafficking, prostitution, and child sexual abuse; and

9 WHEREAS, the detrimental effects on the pornography
10 user include emotional, mental, and medical illnesses, shaping
11 deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming or maintaining
12 intimate relationships, brain development and function, and
13 problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

14 WHEREAS, research indicates that pornography is
15 potentially biologically addictive and leads to increasing
16 themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation,
17 violence, and child sexual abuse; now therefore,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognizing the public
20 health crisis created by pornography in the State of Alabama,
21 we acknowledge the need for education, prevention, research,
22 and policy change at the community and societal level in order
23 to address this epidemic that is harming the people of our
24 state and our country as a whole.