

1 SJR12
2 189375-1
3 By Senator Coleman-Madison
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 09-JAN-18

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8 RECOGNIZING PORNOGRAPHY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD.

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10 WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health
11 crisis; its harms are beyond the capability of an individual
12 to address alone; efforts to prevent pornography exposure and
13 addiction, to educate individuals and families concerning its
14 harms, and to develop recovery programs must be addressed
15 systematically in ways that hold broader influences
16 accountable in order to counter the sexually toxic environment
17 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 what used to be referred to as hardcore pornography at an
23 alarming rate, with 27 percent of older millennials reporting
24 that they first viewed pornography before puberty; this is
25 leading to low self-esteem and eating disorders, an increase
26 in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an

1 increased desire to engage in risky sexual behavior as young
2 adolescents; and

3 WHEREAS, children and youth are exposed to
4 pornography that often serves as their sex education and
5 shapes their sexual templates; pornography treats women as
6 objects and commodities for the viewer's use; and it teaches
7 girls they are to be used and boys to be the users; and

8 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse
9 of women and children; it treats women and children as objects
10 and it often depicts rape and abuse as if they were harmless;
11 it equates violence towards women and children with sex and
12 pain with pleasure, which increases the demand for sex
13 trafficking, prostitution, and child sexual abuse images and
14 child pornography; and

15 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental
16 effects on the user, such as emotional, mental, and medical
17 illnesses, shaping deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming
18 or maintaining intimate relationships, brain development and
19 functioning, problematic or harmful sexual behaviors, and
20 addiction; and

21 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography
22 is potentially biologically addictive, which means the user
23 requires more novelty, which is more shocking material in
24 order to be satisfied; this has led to increasing themes of
25 risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, and
26 child sexual abuse images and child pornography; and

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

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
6 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we recognize that pornography
7 is a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of
8 individual and public health impacts and societal harms.

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