

House Concurrent Resolution No. 20

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILSON.

1329H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

1 **WHEREAS**, pornography is creating a public health crisis and perpetuates a sexually
2 toxic environment; and

3

4 **WHEREAS**, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate
5 individuals and families concerning its harms, and to develop recovery programs must be
6 addressed systematically; and

7

8 **WHEREAS**, due to advances in technology and the universal availability of the internet,
9 young children are exposed to pornography at an alarming rate, with 27% of millennials ages 25
10 to 30 reporting that they first viewed pornography before puberty, based on a 2016 Barna Group
11 study; and

12

13 **WHEREAS**, this early exposure can lead to low self-esteem and body image disorders,
14 an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire among
15 adolescents to engage in risky sexual behavior; and

16

17 **WHEREAS**, exposure to pornography often serves as a child's and a teen's sex education
18 and shapes their sexual understanding, and because pornography treats women and children as
19 objects and commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls that they are to be used and teaches
20 boys to be users; and

21

22 **WHEREAS**, pornography normalizes violence and abuse against women and children
23 by treating women and children as objects and often depicts rape and abuse as if they are
24 harmless. Moreover, pornography equates violence towards women and children with sex and
25 equates pain with pleasure, which increases child sexual abuse, child pornography, and the
26 demand for sex trafficking and prostitution, according to a 2012 study published in the The
27 Protection Project Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society; and

28

29 **WHEREAS**, the potential detrimental effects on viewers of pornography can impact
30 brain development and functioning, contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape deviant

31 sexual arousal as well as problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction, and lead to
32 difficulty in forming or maintaining intimate relationships; and

33

34 **WHEREAS**, recent research indicates that pornography is potentially biologically
35 addictive, which means the user requires more mental stimulation, often in the form of more
36 shocking material, in order to be satisfied. This biological addiction often leads to increasing
37 themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, and child sexual abuse images
38 and child pornography; and

39

40 **WHEREAS**, pornography use is linked to a lessened desire in young men and women
41 to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity, which has a detrimental effect on the family
42 unit; and

43

44 **WHEREAS**, pornography has contributed to a rise in the occurrence of erectile
45 dysfunction in young men; and

46

47 **WHEREAS**, overcoming pornography's harms is extremely difficult for the afflicted
48 individual to address alone:

49

50 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of
51 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
52 concurring therein, hereby recognize that pornography is a public health hazard that leads to a
53 broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms; and

54

55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we recognize the need for additional education,
56 prevention, research, and policy change at the community and the societal level, and we urge this
57 chamber and other governing bodies to take appropriate steps to ensure progress is made; and

58

59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Secretary of State shall send an enrolled copy
60 of this resolution to the Missouri Attorney General, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the
61 Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, the Missouri Library Association, the
62 Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, the Missouri Sheriffs' Association, the Missouri
63 Police Chiefs' Association, the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities,
64 the Missouri Association for Court Administration, the Missouri Municipal League, the County
65 Commissioners Association of Missouri, and the American Family Association of Kansas and
66 Missouri.

✓