

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 72

## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE WILSON.

4824H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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  
27 Protection Project Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society; and

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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

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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

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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

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

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

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50       **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
51 Representatives of the One Hundredth General Assembly, Second 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

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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

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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.

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