

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

763Y0009

SENATE ENGROSSED NO. **SCR 4** - 1/24/2017

Introduced by: Senators Netherton, Bolin, Ewing, Frerichs, Greenfield (Brock), Haverly, Jensen (Phil), Klumb, Kolbeck, Maher, Monroe, Nelson, Novstrup, Rusch, Stalzer, and White and Representatives Howard, Beal, Brunner, Campbell, Chase, Clark, Dennert, DiSanto, Frye-Mueller, Glanzer, Goodwin, Gosch, Haggar, Haugaard, Hawley, Heinemann, Jensen (Kevin), Johnson, Kaiser, Kettwig, Latterell, Lesmeister, Livermont, Marty, McPherson, Pischke, Rasmussen, Rhoden, Rounds, Schaefer, Steinhauer, Tulson, Willadsen, and York

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Recognizing and finding that pornography is a public
2 health crisis leading to a broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal
3 harms.

4 WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health crisis and its harms are beyond the
5 capability of the individual to address alone; and

6 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate individuals
7 and families concerning the harms of pornography, and to develop recovery programs must be
8 addressed systemically in ways that hold broader influences accountable in order to counter the
9 sexually toxic environment pornography perpetuates; and

10 WHEREAS, due to the advances in technology and the universal availability of the internet,
11 young children are exposed to pornography at an alarming rate, with twenty-seven percent of
12 older millennials, age twenty-five to thirty, reporting that they first viewed pornography before



1 puberty; and

2 WHEREAS, pornography leads to low self-esteem and eating disorders, increased
3 problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire to engage in risky sexual
4 behavior as young adolescents; and

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

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

14 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects on excessive users such as:
15 emotional, mental and medical illnesses, shaping deviant sexual arousals, difficulty forming or
16 maintaining intimate relationships, diminished brain development and functioning, problematic
17 or harmful sexual behaviors, and addiction; and

18 WHEREAS, pornography use has a detrimental effect on the family as it is linked to
19 lessening desire in young persons to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity:

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Second Legislature
21 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the
22 Legislature recognizes the public health crisis created by pornography in this state and
23 acknowledges the need for education, prevention, research, and policy change at the community
24 and societal level in order to address the epidemic that is harming the people of our state and

1 our country as a whole.