

House Resolution 364

By: Representatives Broadrick of the 4th, Cooper of the 43rd, Tarvin of the 2nd, Tanner of the 9th, and Hill of the 3rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing that pornography is creating a public health crisis leading to a broad spectrum
2 of individual and public health impacts and societal harms and acknowledging the need for
3 education, prevention, research, and policy change at the community and societal level in
4 order to address the epidemic; and for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health crisis and its harms are beyond the
6 capability of the individual to address alone. Rather, efforts to prevent pornography
7 exposure and addiction, to educate individuals and families concerning its harms, and to
8 develop recovery programs must be addressed systematically in ways that hold broader
9 influences accountable in order to counter the sexually toxic environment it perpetuates; and

10 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the hyper-sexualization of teens, and even
11 prepubescent children, in our society. Due to the advances in technology and the universal
12 availability of the Internet, young children are exposed to what used to be referred to as
13 hard-core, now mainstream, pornography at an alarming rate, with 27 percent of older
14 millennials (age 25-30) reporting that they first viewed pornography before puberty. This
15 is leading to low self-esteem and eating disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity
16 at younger ages, and an increased desire to engage in risky sexual behavior as young
17 adolescents; and

18 WHEREAS, additionally, children and youth are exposed to pornography that oftentimes
19 serves as their sex education and shapes their sexual templates. Because pornography treats
20 women as objects and commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls they are to be used
21 and boys to be users; and

22 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women and children, treating
23 women and children as objects and often depicting rape and abuse as if it were harmless.
24 Moreover, pornography equates violence toward women and children with sex and pain with

25 pleasure which increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, and child sexual abuse
26 images and child pornography; and

27 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects on the user such as: emotional,
28 mental, and medical illnesses; shaping deviant sexual arousal; difficulty forming or
29 maintaining intimate relationships; brain development and functioning; and problematic or
30 harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

31 WHEREAS, furthermore, recent research indicates that pornography is potentially
32 biologically addictive, meaning the user requires more novelty, which is often more shocking
33 material, in order to be satisfied, which has led to increasing themes of risky sexual
34 behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, and child sexual abuse images and child
35 pornography; and

36 WHEREAS, pornography use has a detrimental effect on the family as it is linked to
37 lessening desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
39 this body recognizes the public health crisis created by pornography in this state and
40 acknowledges the need for education, prevention, research, and policy change at the
41 community and societal level in order to address the epidemic that is harming the people of
42 our state and our country as a whole.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
44 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
45 public and the press.