

## House Resolution 447

By: Representatives Rakestraw of the 19<sup>th</sup>, LaRiccia of the 169<sup>th</sup>, Jones of the 47<sup>th</sup>, Hilton of the 95<sup>th</sup>, Spencer of the 180<sup>th</sup>, and others

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and finding that pornography is a public health crisis leading to a broad  
2 spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms; and for other purposes.

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

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

9 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the hyper-sexualization of teens, and even  
10 prepubescent children, in our society; and

11 WHEREAS, due to the advances in technology and the universal availability of the Internet,  
12 young children are exposed to pornography at an alarming rate, with 27 percent of older  
13 millennials reporting that they first viewed pornography before puberty, and this leads to  
14 low self-esteem, eating disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages,  
15 and an increased desire to engage in risky sexual behavior as young adolescents; and

16 WHEREAS, children and youth are exposed to pornography that oftentimes serves as their  
17 sex education and shapes their sexual templates, and due to pornography treating women as  
18 objects and commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls they are to be used and boys to  
19 be users; and

20 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women and children, treating  
21 them as objects and often depicting rape and abuse as if it were harmless; and

22 WHEREAS, pornography equates violence toward women and children with sex and pain  
23 with pleasure which increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, and child sexual  
24 abuse; and

25 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects of the user, such as emotional,  
26 mental, and medical illnesses, shaping deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming or  
27 maintaining intimate relationships, brain development and functioning, problematic or  
28 harmful sexual behaviors, and addiction.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
30 the members of this body recognize the detrimental effects of pornography and find that it  
31 is a public health crisis leading to serious mental and physical problems.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
33 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the  
34 public and the press.