

House Resolution No. 6016

By Representatives Humphries, Blex, Brim, Crum, Elliott, Garber, Highland, Jacobs, Murnan, Osterman, Powell, Rafie, Resman, A. Smith, E. Smith, Sutton, Weber, Whitmer, Williams and Wilson

3-8

1 A RESOLUTION recognizing that pornography is a public health hazard
2 that leads to a broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts
3 and societal harms.

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5 WHEREAS, Pornography is creating a public health crisis and
6 perpetuates a sexually toxic environment; and

7 WHEREAS, Efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction,
8 to educate individuals and families concerning its harms and to develop
9 recovery programs must be addressed systematically; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Exposure to pornography often serves as a child's and a
20 teen's sex education and shapes their sexual understanding, because
21 pornography treats women and children as objects and commodities for
22 the viewer's use. Pornography teaches girls that they are to be used and
23 teaches boys to be users; and

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

32 WHEREAS, The potential detrimental effects on viewers of
33 pornography can impact brain development and functioning, contribute to
34 emotional and medical illnesses, shape deviant sexual arousal, as well as

1 problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction and lead to
2 difficulty in forming or maintaining intimate relationships; and

3 WHEREAS, Recent research indicates that pornography is potentially
4 biologically addictive, which means the user requires more mental
5 stimulation, often in the form of more shocking material, in order to be
6 satisfied. This biological addiction often leads to increasing themes of
7 risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence and child sexual
8 abuse images and child pornography; and

9 WHEREAS, Pornography use is linked to lessened desire in young
10 men and women to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage and infidelity,
11 which has a detrimental effect on the family unit; and

12 WHEREAS, Pornography has contributed to a rise in the occurrence
13 of erectile dysfunction in young men; and

14 WHEREAS, Overcoming pornography's harms is extremely difficult
15 for the afflicted individual to address alone: Now, therefore,

16 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*
17 That we recognize pornography is a public health hazard that leads to a
18 broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal
19 harms; and

20 *Be it further resolved:* That we recognize the need for additional
21 education, prevention, research and policy change at the community and
22 societal levels, and we urge this chamber and other governing bodies to
23 take appropriate steps to ensure progress is made; and

24 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of
25 Representatives shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to the Kansas
26 Attorney General, Derek Schmidt; the Kansas Bureau of Investigation
27 Director, Kirk Thompson; the Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent,
28 Colonel Mark Bruce; the Kansas Department of Health and Environment
29 Secretary, Susan Mosier; the Kansas Library Association; the Kansas
30 County & District Attorneys Association; the Kansas Sheriffs'
31 Association; the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police; the Kansas
32 Association of District Court Clerks and Administrators; the Kansas
33 Appellate Courts and the Kansas Supreme Court; the League of Kansas
34 Municipalities; the Kansas County Commissioners Association; the
35 American Family Association of Kansas and Missouri State Director,
36 Phillip Cosby; and Representative Humphries.