

Senate Resolution No. 1762

By Senators Pilcher-Cook, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Billinger, Bowers, Denning, Estes, Faust-Goudeau, Fitzgerald, Francisco, Givens, Goddard, Hardy, Hawk, Hilderbrand, Holland, Kerschen, Longbine, Lynn, Masterson, McGinn, Olson, Petersen, Pettey, Pyle, V. Schmidt, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, Tyson, Wagle and Wilborn

1-30

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 WHEREAS, The potential detrimental effects on viewers of
32 pornography can impact brain development and functioning, contribute to
33 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 Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize
17 that pornography is a public health hazard that leads to a broad spectrum
18 of individual and public health impacts and societal harms; and

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

23 Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an
24 enrolled copy of this resolution to the Kansas Attorney General, Derek
25 Schmidt; the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director, Kirk Thompson;
26 the Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent, Colonel Mark Bruce; the
27 Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; the
28 Kansas Library Association; the Kansas County & District Attorneys
29 Association; the Kansas Sheriffs' Association; the Kansas Association of
30 Chiefs of Police; the Kansas Association of District Court Clerks and
31 Administrators; the Kansas Appellate Courts and the Kansas Supreme
32 Court; the League of Kansas Municipalities; the Kansas County
33 Commissioners Association; the American Family Association of Kansas
34 and Missouri State Director, Phillip Cosby; and Senator Pilcher-Cook.