

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1762

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The potential detrimental effects on viewers of pornography can impact brain development and functioning, contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape deviant sexual arousal, as well as problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction and lead to difficulty in forming or maintaining intimate relationships; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Senate Resolution No. 1762 was sponsored 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, Schmidt, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, Tyson, Wagle and Wilborn.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*