

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize and acknowledge the proliferation of pornography among Louisiana children to be a public health hazard which leads to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms and denounce pornography as a corroding influence on childhood in our state.

WHEREAS, the members of the Louisiana Legislature recognize that pornography is creating a public health crisis and that it perpetuates a sexually toxic environment; and

WHEREAS, pornography contributes to the hyper-sexualization of teens and even prepubescent children in our society; and

WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the universal availability of the internet, young children are exposed to what used to be referred to as hardcore pornography but is now considered mainstream pornography; and

WHEREAS, the average age of exposure to pornography is now eleven to twelve years; and

WHEREAS, research shows one-third of ten-year-olds and one-half of twelve- to fifteen-year-olds regularly access hardcore pornography via the internet through computers, smart phones, and other devices that give access to the internet; and

WHEREAS, this early exposure may 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 sex education for children and youth and informs their sexual templates; and

WHEREAS, pornography which depicts violence and abuse of women and children tends to normalize such behavior; and

WHEREAS, pornography treats women and children as objects and often portrays rape and abuse as if such acts are harmless; and

WHEREAS, pornography equates violence towards women and children with sex, and pain with pleasure, which increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, science indicates the brain is the only organ whose physiology actually is changed by the information humans process; and

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

WHEREAS, studies conclude exposure to pornography at an early age is especially detrimental, causing addictions to instant gratification and greater impulses for increasingly more shocking material, leading to engagement in progressively more risky sexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to lessening desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity, and this link demonstrates that pornography has a detrimental effect on the family, the fundamental social unit in our culture; and

WHEREAS, systematic examinations prove that the younger a boy is exposed to images depicting rape, bondage, abuse of women, and other deviant behaviors, the more he is prone to commit violence and force nonconsensual sex with others; and

WHEREAS, overcoming the emotionally and psychologically damaging effects of childhood exposure to pornography is beyond the capability of the afflicted individuals to address alone; and

WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate individuals and families concerning its harmful effects, and to develop recovery programs must be addressed systemically in a manner that holds providers accountable; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the cancer on society that pornography poses when it is distributed carelessly over the internet with little regard for the devastating and long lasting effects that childhood exposure to it can cause, and begin to address the regulation of it to ensure compliance with the state's obscenity laws to protect the state's citizens and children and youth in particular from such exposure.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and acknowledge the proliferation of pornography among Louisiana children to be a public health hazard which leads to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms and denounce pornography as a corroding influence on childhood in our state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature hereby expresses the need to address the pornography epidemic by encouraging education, prevention, research, and policy changes to address the proliferation of pornography on the internet in particular, and call for regulation of pornography on the internet to ensure compliance with obscenity laws of the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature hereby pledges to pursue every possible course of action, including legal, educational, research, religious, and social means, to prevent accidental exposure and deliberate access to pornography by those under eighteen years of age.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature hereby urges the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives to join with the governor in an aggressive public campaign to protect children from exposure to pornography.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature hereby expresses support for laws, programs and policies, and business practices, as well as urges religious, civic, and community action, to prevent pornography from having a corroding effect on childhood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the attorney general, the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the secretary of state for awareness and action as appropriate, as well as to the members of the House and Senate committees on health and welfare and the House and Senate committees on education for development of appropriate legislation to address pornography as a pernicious public health hazard in our state with particular emphasis on protecting our children from inadvertent or intentional exposure to online adult content.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE