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LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-fourth Legislature First Regular Session - 2017

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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING PORNOGRAPHY AS A PUBLIC
3 HEALTH HAZARD.

4 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

5 WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health crisis; and
6 WHEREAS, pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic environment; and
7 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent exposure and addiction to pornography, to
8 educate individuals and families concerning the harms of pornography and to
9 develop recovery programs must be addressed systematically in ways that hold
10 broader influences accountable; and

11 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the inappropriate and danger-
12 ous sexualization of adolescents and even prepubescent children in our soci-
13 ety; and

14 WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the universal availability
15 of the internet, young children are exposed to what used to be referred to
16 as hard core, but is now considered mainstream, pornography at an alarming
17 rate; and

18 WHEREAS, the average age of exposure to pornography is now 11 to 12 years
19 of age; and

20 WHEREAS, this early exposure is leading children and adolescents to de-
21 velop low self-esteem and body image disorders, to increase engagement in
22 problematic sexual activity at younger ages and to develop an increased de-
23 sire for engagement in risky sexual behavior; and

24 WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as childrens' and adoles-
25 cents' sex education and shapes their sexual templates; and

26 WHEREAS, because pornography treats women as objects and commodities
27 for the viewer's use, it teaches girls that they are to be used and teaches
28 boys to be users; and

29 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women and chil-
30 dren; and

31 WHEREAS, pornography treats women and children as objects and often de-
32 picts rape and abuse as if they are harmless; and

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

36 WHEREAS, potential detrimental effects on users of pornography can im-
37 pact brain development and functioning, contribute to emotional and medical
38 illnesses, shape deviant sexual arousal and lead to difficulty forming or
39 maintaining intimate relationships and to problematic or harmful sexual be-
40 haviors and addiction; and

41 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography is potentially bi-
42 ologically addictive, which means the user requires more novelty, often in
43 the form of more shocking material, in order to be satisfied; and

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1 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to increasing consumption of
2 pornography with themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation and
3 violence, and to consumption of child sexual abuse images and child pornog-
4 raphy; and

5 WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to lessening desire in young men to
6 marry, to dissatisfaction in marriage and to infidelity; and

7 WHEREAS, this link demonstrates that pornography has a detrimental ef-
8 fect on the family unit; and

9 WHEREAS, overcoming pornography's harms is beyond the capability of the
10 afflicted individual to address alone.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
12 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
13 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature recognizes that pornog-
14 raphy is a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and
15 public health impacts and societal harms.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes the need for edu-
17 cation, prevention, research and policy change at the community and societal
18 level in order to address the pornography epidemic that is harming the people
19 of our state and nation.