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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING PORNOGRAPHY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD THAT LEADS TO
A BROAD SPECTRUM OF INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETAL HARMS; EXPRESSING
THE NEED TO ADDRESS THE POTENTIAL HARMS OF PORNOGRAPHY BY
ENCOURAGING EDUCATION, PREVENTION, RESEARCH AND POLICY CHANGES;
ADDRESSING THE PROLIFERATION OF PORNOGRAPHY ON THE INTERNET;
CALLING FOR REGULATION OF PORNOGRAPHY ON THE INTERNET.

WHEREAS, pornography is a public health hazard; and

WHEREAS, pornography 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
systemically in ways that hold broader influences accountable;
and

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1 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the
2 hypersexualizing of teenagers and prepubescent children in
3 society; and

4 WHEREAS, owing to advances in technology and the universal
5 availability of the internet, young children are exposed to
6 what used to be referred to as hardcore, but is now considered
7 mainstream, pornography at an alarming rate; and

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

10 WHEREAS, this early exposure is leading to low self-esteem
11 and body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual
12 activity at younger ages and an increased desire among
13 adolescents to engage in risky sexual behavior; and

14 WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as
15 children's and youths' sex education and shapes their sexual
16 patterns; and

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

20 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse of
21 women and children and often depicts rape and abuse as if such
22 acts are harmless; and

23 WHEREAS, pornography equates violence toward women and
24 children with sex and pain with pleasure, which increases the
25 demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, images of child

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1 sexual abuse and child pornography; and

2 WHEREAS, the use of pornography can potentially negatively
3 affect brain development and functioning, contribute to
4 emotional and medical illnesses, shape deviant sexual arousal
5 and lead to problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and
6 addiction as well as difficulty in forming or maintaining
7 intimate relationships; and

8 WHEREAS, the use of pornography by either partner is
9 linked to an increased likelihood that girls will engage in
10 group intercourse; and

11 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography is
12 potentially biologically addictive, which means the user
13 requires more novelty, often in the form of more shocking
14 material, in order to be satisfied; and

15 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to increasing
16 themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation,
17 violence, child sexual abuse and child pornography; and

18 WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to lessening desire in
19 young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage and infidelity;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, this link demonstrates that pornography has a
22 detrimental effect on the family unit; and

23 WHEREAS, overcoming the harms of pornography is beyond the
24 capability of the afflicted individual to address alone; and

25 WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the threat to

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1 society that pornography poses when it is distributed
2 carelessly over the internet with little regard for the
3 devastating and long-lasting effects that exposure can cause
4 and to begin to address the regulation of it to protect the
5 state's residents, and youth in particular, from such exposure;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize that pornography is a
8 public health crisis leading to a broad spectrum of individual
9 and public health impacts and societal harms; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature recognize the
11 need for education, prevention, research and policy changes at
12 the community and societal level in order to address the
13 pornography epidemic that is harming the people of the state
14 and the nation; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of health.