

1 WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as sex education for children and
2 youth and informs their sexual templates; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29 attorney general, the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the
30 Department of Children and Family Services, and the secretary of state for awareness and

1 action as appropriate, as well as to the members of the House and Senate committees on
2 health and welfare and the House and Senate committees on education for development of
3 appropriate legislation to address pornography as a pernicious public health hazard in our
4 state with particular emphasis on protecting our children from inadvertent or intentional
5 exposure to online adult content.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 100 Original

2017 Regular Session

Edmonds

Declares the proliferation of pornography among La. children a public health hazard and denounces pornography as a corroding influence on childhood in our state.