

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 38

## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BEARD.

2122H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

1           **WHEREAS**, pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic environment; and

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3           **WHEREAS**, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate  
4 individuals and families concerning its harms, and to develop recovery programs should be  
5 addressed systematically in ways that hold broader influences accountable; and

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7           **WHEREAS**, pornography may contribute to the hypersexualization of teenagers, and  
8 even prepubescent children, in our society; and

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10          **WHEREAS**, owing to advances in technology and the universal availability of the  
11 internet, young children can be exposed to what used to be referred to as hardcore, but is now  
12 considered mainstream, pornography at an alarming rate; and

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14          **WHEREAS**, the average age of exposure to pornography is now 11 to 12 years of age;  
15 and

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

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21          **WHEREAS**, exposure to pornography may serve as children's and youth's sex education  
22 and may shape their sexual templates; and

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24          **WHEREAS**, pornography may normalize violence and abuse; and

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26          **WHEREAS**, pornography often depicts rape and abuse as if such acts are harmless; and

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28          **WHEREAS**, pornography equates violence with sex and pain with pleasure, which  
29 increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, images of child sexual abuse, and child  
30 pornography; and

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32           **WHEREAS**, use of pornography can potentially negatively affect brain development and  
33 functioning, contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape deviant sexual arousal, and lead  
34 to difficulty in forming or maintaining intimate relationships as well as problematic or harmful  
35 sexual behaviors and addiction; and

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37           **WHEREAS**, use of pornography, by either partner, is linked to an increased likelihood  
38 that individuals will engage in group intercourse; and

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

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44           **WHEREAS**, this biological addiction may lead to increasing themes of risky sexual  
45 behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, child sexual abuse, and child pornography; and

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47           **WHEREAS**, pornography use is linked to lessening desire to marry, dissatisfaction in  
48 marriage, and infidelity; and

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50           **WHEREAS**, this link demonstrates that pornography has a detrimental effect on the  
51 family unit:

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53           **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
54 Representatives of the Ninety-ninth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate  
55 concurring therein, hereby recognize pornography as leading to individual and societal harms  
56 and recognize the need for education, prevention, research, and policy change at the community  
57 and societal level.

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