

By: Senator(s) Blackwell

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DECLARING THE LEGISLATIVE POLICY THAT
2 PORNOGRAPHY IS A PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD AND RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR
3 EDUCATION, PREVENTION AND RESEARCH.

4 WHEREAS, each day, countless people are exposed to sexually
5 explicit content through a wide range of media, and these
6 consumers are often unaware of the health risks posed by such
7 material; and

8 WHEREAS, pornography is a public health hazard leading to a
9 broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and
10 societal harms; and

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

15 WHEREAS, this early exposure is leading to low self-esteem
16 and body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual
17 activity at younger ages, and an increased desire to engage in
18 risky sexual behavior; and



19 WHEREAS, besides promoting unhealthy sexual expectations,
20 pornography objectifies women and children as well as depicting
21 rape and abuse as if they were harmless; by associating violence
22 with sexual gratification, these materials perpetuate the demand
23 for sex trafficking, prostitution, sexual abuse images, and child
24 pornography; and

25 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography is
26 potentially biologically addictive, which means the user requires
27 more novelty, often in the form of more shocking material, in
28 order to be satisfied; and

29 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to increasing themes
30 of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, and
31 child sexual abuse images and child pornography; and

32 WHEREAS, pornography has also been linked to the inability to
33 form and maintain intimate relationships, these dangers not only
34 affect people on an individual level but also contribute to the
35 degradation of the family unit, frequently leading to marital
36 dissatisfaction and infidelity; and

37 WHEREAS, the ubiquity of pornography has resulted in a host
38 of societal problems and potentially negative health effects, and
39 it is of paramount importance that our leaders tackle this
40 critical public health issue:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
42 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That



43 the Legislature hereby recognizes that pornography is a public
44 health hazard.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature recognizes the
46 need for education, prevention, research and policy changes to
47 address the harmful influence and consequences of pornography.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
49 to the State Board of Health and the State Board of Education for
50 appropriate action and recommendation to the Legislature at the
51 2019 Regular Session.

