

1 HJR201  
2 179028-1  
3 By Representatives Williams (JD), Wingo, Fincher, Brown,  
4 Holmes (M), Carns, Sells, Beckman, Baker, Ingram, Crawford,  
5 Fridy, Collins, Nordgren, Whorton (I), Hanes, Williams (JW),  
6 Farley, Sanderford, Whorton (R), Pettus, Tuggle, Ledbetter,  
7 Treadaway, Faulkner, Moore (B), Patterson, Lovvorn, Clouse,  
8 Pringle, Drake, McMillan, Ainsworth, Lee, Shiver and Hill  
9 RFD: Rules  
10 First Read: 16-MAR-17

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7  
8 RECOGNIZING PORNOGRAPHY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD.

9  
10 WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health  
11 crisis; and

12 WHEREAS, pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic  
13 environment; and

14 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and  
15 addiction, to educate individuals and families concerning its  
16 harms, and to develop recovery programs must be addressed  
17 systemically in ways that hold broader influences accountable;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the  
20 hypersexualization of teens, and even prepubescent children,  
21 in our society; and

22 WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the  
23 universal availability of the Internet, young children are  
24 exposed to what used to be referred to as hard core, but is  
25 now considered mainstream, pornography at an alarming rate;  
26 and

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

3           WHEREAS, this early exposure is leading to low  
4 self-esteem and body image disorders, an increase in  
5 problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased  
6 desire among adolescents to engage in risky sexual behavior;  
7 and

8           WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as  
9 childrens' and youths' sex education and shapes their sexual  
10 templates; and

11           WHEREAS, because pornography treats women as objects  
12 and commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls they  
13 are to be used and teaches boys to be users; and

14           WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse  
15 of women and children; and

16           WHEREAS, pornography treats women and children as  
17 objects and often depicts rape and abuse as if they are  
18 harmless; and

19           WHEREAS, pornography equates violence towards women  
20 and children with sex and pain with pleasure, which increases  
21 the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual  
22 abuse images, and child pornography; and

23           WHEREAS, potential detrimental effects on  
24 pornography's users can impact brain development and  
25 functioning, contribute to emotional and medical illnesses,  
26 shape deviant sexual arousal, and lead to difficulty in

1 forming or maintaining intimate relationships, as well as  
2 problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

3 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography  
4 is potentially biologically addictive, which means the user  
5 requires more novelty, often in the form of more shocking  
6 material, in order to be satisfied; and

7 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to  
8 increasing themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme  
9 degradation, violence, and child sexual abuse images and child  
10 pornography; and

11 WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to lessening  
12 desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and  
13 infidelity; and

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

16 WHEREAS, overcoming pornography's harms is beyond  
17 the capability of the afflicted individual to address alone;  
18 now therefore,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
20 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we find that pornography is a  
21 public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual  
22 and public health impacts and societal harms.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor,  
24 Attorney General, and other state officials to recognize the  
25 need for education, prevention, research, and policy change at  
26 the community and societal level in order to address the

1        pornography epidemic that is harming the people of our state  
2        and nation.

3                        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
4        resolution be delivered to the Governor and the Attorney  
5        General.