

1 A RESOLUTION acknowledging the widespread claims of sexual harassment and  
2 other sexual impropriety throughout the nation and Commonwealth, recognizing that the  
3 objectification of women is a root cause of such behavior, declaring pornography to be a  
4 public health crisis, encouraging education on the dangers, harms, and health risks of  
5 pornography, and requesting the increased enforcement of current laws to curb  
6 obscenity's objectification of women.

7 WHEREAS, a recent social movement throughout the nation and the  
8 Commonwealth exposed widespread sexual harassment, assault, and other improprieties  
9 by men in positions of power and influence; and

10 WHEREAS, the staggering scope of the problem was realized through the millions  
11 who told their stories of being sexually harassed through Twitter and Facebook using  
12 #MeToo; and

13 WHEREAS, 45 percent of Facebook users in the nation have friends who posted  
14 "Me Too"; and

15 WHEREAS, 68 percent of Americans view sexual harassment as an "extremely  
16 serious" or "very serious" problem in this country today; and

17 WHEREAS, the objectification of women is a root cause of the widespread sexual  
18 harassment and assault in the nation and Commonwealth; and

19 WHEREAS, males who view pornography are significantly more likely to sexually  
20 harass a peer or force someone to have sex; and

21 WHEREAS, pornography use puts people at increased risk of committing sexual  
22 offenses and accepting rape myths; and

23 WHEREAS, 88 percent of the scenes in the 50 most popular pornographic videos  
24 contain physical violence, 87 percent of which is directed toward women; and

25 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women and children;  
26 and

27 WHEREAS, pornography treats women and children as objects and often depicts

1 rape and abuse as harmless; and

2 WHEREAS, pornography equates violence towards women and children with sex  
3 and pain, with pleasure which increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, and  
4 child sexual abuse images or child pornography; and

5 WHEREAS, tens of millions of Americans and many Kentuckians are being  
6 conditioned to objectify others while becoming more likely to sexually harass a peer,  
7 force someone to have sex, commit a sexual offense, and view violence against women  
8 and children as normal; and

9 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects on the user such as  
10 emotional, mental and medical illnesses, shaping deviant sexual arousal, difficulty  
11 forming or maintaining intimate relationships, brain development and functioning, and  
12 problematic or harmful sexual behaviors, and addiction; and

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

16 WHEREAS, this has led to increasing themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme  
17 degradation, violence, and child sexual abuse images or child pornography; and

18 WHEREAS, pornography use has a detrimental effect on the family as it is linked to  
19 lessening desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity; and

20 WHEREAS, a study of university students found that 93 percent of boys and 61  
21 percent of girls had viewed Internet pornography during adolescence; and

22 WHEREAS, a nationally representative survey found that 64 percent of young  
23 people, ages 13 to 24, actively seek out pornography weekly or more often; and

24 WHEREAS, due to the advances in technology and the universal availability of the  
25 Internet, young children are exposed to what used to be referred to as hardcore (now  
26 mainstream) pornography at an alarming rate, with 27 percent of older millennials,  
27 between age 25 and 30, reporting that they first viewed pornography before puberty; and

1           WHEREAS, children and youth are exposed to pornography that oftentimes serves  
2 as their sex education and shapes their sexual templates; and

3           WHEREAS, this is leading to low self-esteem and eating disorders, an increase in  
4 problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire to engage in risky  
5 sexual behavior as young adolescents; and

6           WHEREAS, 59 percent of all human trafficking victims in Kentucky are children,  
7 as reported by the office of the Kentucky Attorney General; and

8           WHEREAS, obscenity is unprotected speech; and

9           WHEREAS, obscenity is pervasive, degrading, and harmful; and

10          WHEREAS, when federal obscenity laws were enforced, pornographers in many  
11 parts of the country responded by self-regulating, avoiding extremely violent or degrading  
12 content, and pulling potentially illegal material off their shelves; and

13          WHEREAS, the Kentucky General Assembly desires to be part of the solution in  
14 addressing the widespread sexual harassment, assault, and other improprieties; and

15          WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure that women and children are viewed and  
16 treated with dignity; and

17          WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health crisis and, therefore, its harms  
18 are beyond the capability of the individual to address alone; and

19          WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate  
20 individuals and families concerning its harms, and to develop recovery programs must be  
21 addressed systemically in ways that hold broader influences accountable in order to  
22 counter the sexually toxic environment it perpetuates; and

23          WHEREAS, education about the harmful effects of pornography is an essential part  
24 of restoring women's dignity in culture and eliminating the tolerance of widespread  
25 sexual harassment; and

26          WHEREAS, the obscenity industry considers the line of legality to be drawn by  
27 prosecutors, not by legislators; and

1 WHEREAS, state and local law enforcement are essential to investigating and  
2 building the cases against the obscenity industry; and

3 WHEREAS, the Kentucky State Police recently expanded fourfold the resources  
4 dedicated to fighting Internet crimes against children;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

6 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
7 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

8 ➔Section 1. This honorable body acknowledges the widespread claims of sexual  
9 impropriety throughout the nation and Commonwealth, condemns all sexual harassment  
10 and assault, recognizes the objectification of women as a root cause, and commits to  
11 protecting the dignity of all women.

12 ➔Section 2. This honorable body recognizes the public health crisis created by  
13 pornography and acknowledges the need for education, prevention, research, and policy  
14 change at the community and societal level in order to address the epidemic that is  
15 harming the people of our state and our country as a whole.

16 ➔Section 3. This honorable body encourages education about the harms of  
17 pornography use for the individual and society.

18 ➔Section 4. The Kentucky Attorney General and Commonwealth's Attorney  
19 Offices are respectfully requested to treat the prosecution of obscenity and other sexual  
20 exploitation offenses with high priority and to seek adequate penalties to dissuade such  
21 offenses.

22 ➔Section 5. This honorable body commends the Kentucky State Police for  
23 fighting Internet crimes against children and in the lifesaving work done by its troopers,  
24 officers, and civilians in rescuing children from exploitation and trafficking.

25 ➔Section 6. All law enforcement within the Commonwealth are respectfully  
26 requested to enforce current obscenity and other sexual exploitation laws.

27 ➔Section 7. Kentucky municipalities are respectfully requested to enforce local

1 ordinances combating obscenity and other sexual exploitation.

2       ➔Section 8. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
3 copy of this Resolution to the Governor's Office, Kentucky Department for Public  
4 Health, Office of Health Policy, Kentucky Department of Education, Attorney General's  
5 Office, Commonwealth's Attorney Offices, and to the Kentucky Fraternal Order of  
6 Police, the Kentucky Association of Counties, and the Kentucky League of Cities for  
7 dissemination to their members.