

1           A RESOLUTION declaring pornography to be a public health crisis, encouraging  
2 education on the dangers, harms, and health risks of pornography, and requesting the  
3 increased enforcement of current laws to curb the objectification and exploitation of  
4 women and children.

5           WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse against women and  
6 children by treating them as objects; and

7           WHEREAS, pornography increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, and  
8 child sexual abuse images/child pornography; and

9           WHEREAS, pornography use puts people at increased risk of committing sexual  
10 offenses; and

11           WHEREAS, advances in technology have resulted in children and youth being  
12 exposed to and actively seeking what used to be referred to as hardcore (now mainstream)  
13 pornography at an alarming rate, leading to low self-esteem and eating disorders, an  
14 increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire to engage  
15 in risky sexual behavior as young adolescents; and

16           WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects on the user such as  
17 emotional, mental, and medical illnesses; and

18           WHEREAS, pornography has potential addictive effects and can lead to increasing  
19 themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, and child sexual abuse  
20 images/child pornography; and

21           WHEREAS, pornography use has a detrimental effect on the health of the family as  
22 it is linked to lessening desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and  
23 infidelity; and

24           WHEREAS, the Kentucky General Assembly desires that women and children are  
25 viewed and treated with dignity; and

26           WHEREAS, obscenity is pervasive despite being degrading, harmful, and  
27 unprotected speech; and

1           WHEREAS, the Kentucky State Police recently expanded fourfold the resources  
2 dedicated to fighting Internet crimes against children; and

3           WHEREAS, the obscenity industry considers the line of legality to be drawn by  
4 prosecutors, not by legislators, and pornographers in many parts of the country responded  
5 by self-regulating when federal obscenity laws were enforced; and.

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

8           NOW, THEREFORE,

9 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*  
10 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

11           ➔Section 1. This honorable body commits to protecting the dignity of all women  
12 and children.

13           ➔Section 2. This honorable body recognizes the public health crisis created by  
14 pornography.

15           ➔Section 3. This honorable body acknowledges the need for education about the  
16 harmful effects of pornography use for the individual and society and the need for  
17 prevention, research, and policy change at the community and societal level in order to  
18 address the epidemic that is harming the people of our state and our country as a whole.

19           ➔Section 4. This honorable body respectfully requests the Kentucky Attorney  
20 General and Commonwealth's Attorney Offices to treat the prosecution of obscenity and  
21 other sexual exploitation offenses with high priority and to seek adequate penalties to  
22 dissuade such offenses.

23           ➔Section 5. This honorable body commends the Kentucky State Police for  
24 fighting Internet crimes against children and in the lifesaving work done by its troopers,  
25 officers, and civilians in rescuing children from exploitation and trafficking and  
26 respectfully requests all law enforcement within the Commonwealth to enforce current  
27 obscenity and other sexual exploitation laws.