

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 WHEREAS, the Kentucky State Police recently expanded fourfold the resources

1 dedicated to fighting Internet crimes against children; and

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

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

7 NOW, THEREFORE,

8 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
9 *Kentucky:*

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

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

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

18 ➔Section 4. This honorable body respectfully requests prosecutors to treat the
19 prosecution of obscenity and other sexual exploitation offenses with high priority and to
20 seek adequate penalties to dissuade such offenses.

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