HLS 17RS-837 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONDS

CHILDREN: Declares the proliferation of pornography among Louisiana children to be a public health hazard

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To recognize and acknowledge the proliferation of pornography among Louisiana children
3	to be a public health hazard which leads to a broad spectrum of individual and
4	societal harms and denounce pornography as a corroding influence on childhood in
5	our state.
6	WHEREAS, the members of the Louisiana Legislature recognize that pornography
7	is creating a public health crisis and that it perpetuates a sexually toxic environment; and
8	WHEREAS, pornography contributes to the hyper-sexualization of teens and even
9	prepubescent children in our society; and
10	WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the universal availability of the
11	internet, young children are exposed to what used to be referred to as hardcore pornography
12	but is now considered mainstream pornography; and
13	WHEREAS, the average age of exposure to pornography is now eleven to twelve
14	years; and
15	WHEREAS, research shows one-third of ten-year-olds and one-half of twelve- to
16	fifteen-year-olds regularly access hardcore pornography via the internet through computers,
17	smart phones, and other devices that give access to the internet; and
18	WHEREAS, this early exposure may lead to low self-esteem and body image
19	disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire
20	among adolescents to engage in risky sexual behavior; and

1	WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as sex education for children and
2	youth and informs their sexual templates; and
3	WHEREAS, pornography which depicts violence and abuse of women and children
4	tends to normalize such behavior; and
5	WHEREAS, pornography treats women and children as objects and often portrays
6	rape and abuse as if such acts are harmless; and
7	WHEREAS, pornography equates violence towards women and children with sex,
8	and pain with pleasure, which increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child
9	sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and
10	WHEREAS, science indicates the brain is the only organ whose physiology actually
11	is changed by the information humans process; and
12	WHEREAS, potential detrimental effects on children and youth exposed to
13	pornography can impact brain development and functioning, contribute to emotional and
14	medical illnesses, shape deviant sexual arousal, and lead to difficulty in forming or
15	maintaining positive, intimate relationships, as well as promote problematic or harmful
16	sexual behaviors and addiction; and
17	WHEREAS, studies conclude exposure to pornography at an early age is especially
18	detrimental, causing addictions to instant gratification and greater impulses for increasingly
19	more shocking material, leading to engagement in progressively more risky sexual behavior;
20	and
21	WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to lessening desire in young men to marry,
22	dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity, and this link demonstrates that pornography has
23	a detrimental effect on the family, the fundamental social unit in our culture; and
24	WHEREAS, systematic examinations prove that the younger a boy is exposed to
25	images depicting rape, bondage, abuse of women, and other deviant behaviors, the more he
26	is prone to commit violence and force nonconsensual sex with others; and
27	WHEREAS, overcoming the emotionally and psychologically damaging effects of
28	childhood exposure to pornography is beyond the capability of the afflicted individuals to
29	address alone; and

1	WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate
2	individuals and families concerning its harmful effects, and to develop recovery programs
3	must be addressed systemically in a manner that holds providers accountable; and
4	WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the cancer on society that pornography poses
5	when it is distributed carelessly over the internet with little regard for the devastating and
6	long lasting effects that childhood exposure to it can cause, and begin to address the
7	regulation of it to ensure compliance with the state's obscenity laws to protect the state's
8	citizens and children and youth in particular from such exposure.
9	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
10	recognize and acknowledge the proliferation of pornography among Louisiana children to
11	be a public health hazard which leads to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms
12	and denounce pornography as a corroding influence on childhood in our state.
13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature hereby expresses the need to
14	address the pornography epidemic by encouraging education, prevention, research, and
15	policy changes to address the proliferation of pornography on the internet in particular, and
16	call for regulation of pornography on the internet to ensure compliance with obscenity laws
17	of the state.
18	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature hereby pledges to pursue every
19	possible course of action, including legal, educational, research, religious, and social means,
20	to prevent accidental exposure and deliberate access to pornography by those under eighteen
21	years of age.
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature hereby urges the president of the
23	Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives to join with the governor in an
24	aggressive public campaign to protect children from exposure to pornography.
25	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature hereby expresses support for
26	laws, programs and policies, and business practices, as well as urges religious, civic, and
27	community action, to prevent pornography from having a corroding effect on childhood.
28	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
29	attorney general, the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the
30	Department of Children and Family Services, and the secretary of state for awareness and

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1 action as appropriate, as well as to the members of the House and Senate committees on

- 2 health and welfare and the House and Senate committees on education for development of
- 3 appropriate legislation to address pornography as a pernicious public health hazard in our
- 4 state with particular emphasis on protecting our children from inadvertent or intentional

5 exposure to online adult content.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 100 Original

2017 Regular Session

Edmonds

Declares the proliferation of pornography among La. children a public health hazard and denounces pornography as a corroding influence on childhood in our state.