

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATOR CLOUD

INTERNET. Memorializes Congress to prohibit access to online pornography by persons under the age of 18.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation prohibiting access to online pornography by persons under the age of eighteen.

WHEREAS, the members of the Louisiana Legislature recognize the regrettable ease of access to online pornography and the detrimental effects of exposure to online pornography by minors; and

WHEREAS, studies have indicated that ninety-three percent of boys and sixty-two percent of girls are exposed to online pornography before the age of eighteen, and that the average age of exposure is eleven; and

WHEREAS, research also indicates that thirty-three percent of ten-year-olds, and fifty percent of twelve- to fifteen-year-olds, regularly access online pornography; and

WHEREAS, with twelve percent of websites having pornographic content and only three percent of such websites requiring age verification, potential access to online pornography by minors appears virtually unrestricted; and

WHEREAS, some industries, such as gaming, tobacco, and alcohol, have implemented age verification with some success in limiting accessibility to online content by underage persons; and

WHEREAS, other websites and apps for electronic devices, such as Facebook and

1 YouTube, require age verification to prevent persons under thirteen from accessing its  
2 content pursuant to the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.; and

3 WHEREAS, because of the ease of access to pornography through email, chat rooms,  
4 and internet searches, pornography appears immediately and anonymously without sufficient  
5 viewer restrictions, and its content is explicit in nature; and

6 WHEREAS, after the decision by the United States Supreme Court in *Reno v. ACLU*,  
7 521 U.S. 844 (1997), it appears that online pornography has become more accessible,  
8 diverse, and explicit; and

9 WHEREAS, existing federal law appears insufficient to adequately respond to this  
10 threat to minors; and

11 WHEREAS, protections used offline to protect children from age-restricted goods  
12 or services should be considered in developing laws to restrict access to online pornography;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, research indicates that excessive viewing by minors of sexually explicit  
15 content may lead to issues such as low self-esteem and body image disorders, an increase  
16 in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, an increased desire among minors to engage  
17 in risky sexual behavior, and addictive behavior regarding pornography; and

18 WHEREAS, research shows that exposure to online pornography may also skew a  
19 child's worldview, increase high-risk behaviors, and harm their capacity for successful and  
20 sustained human relationships; and

21 WHEREAS, because online pornography with graphic, indecent, and explicit content  
22 appears increasingly accessible to viewers who are minors, and because there are perceived  
23 harmful and detrimental effects of exposure to online pornography by minors, the United  
24 States Congress has very compelling interests in enacting legislation or revising existing  
25 legislation to prevent minors from accessing online pornography by enacting robust age  
26 verification requirements and punitive penalties, including massive fines and potential ban  
27 from service providers on pornographic website producers who do not comply with the law.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes  
29 the Congress of the United States to enact legislation prohibiting access to internet  
30 pornography by persons under the age of eighteen.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
2       secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of  
3       Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana Delegation to the United States  
4       Congress.

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          The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
          of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Ridge.

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	DIGEST	
SCR 11 Original	2020 Regular Session	Cloud

Memorializes Congress to enact legislation prohibiting access to internet pornography by persons under the age of 18.