

House Concurrent Resolution 8 - Introduced

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SALMON

1 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the public health
2 hazard of pornography and its harmful proliferation
3 on the internet and calling for vigorous enforcement
4 of obscenity laws and steps to address the crisis of
5 easily accessible pornography on the internet.

6 WHEREAS, the General Assembly recognizes that
7 pornography is creating a public health crisis and
8 perpetuates a sexually toxic environment; and

9 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure
10 and addiction, to educate individuals and families
11 concerning its harmful effects, and to develop recovery
12 programs must be addressed systemically in a manner
13 that holds broader influences accountable; and

14 WHEREAS, pornography contributes to the
15 hypersexualization of teens and prepubescent children
16 in our society; and

17 WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the
18 universal availability of the internet, children are
19 frequently exposed to what used to be referred to as
20 hard-core pornography but is now considered mainstream
21 pornography; and

22 WHEREAS, a study of university students found that
23 93 percent of boys and 62 percent of girls have viewed
24 pornography during adolescence; and

25 WHEREAS, this exposure leads to low self-esteem and
26 body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual
27 activity at younger ages, and a greater likelihood
28 of engaging in risky sexual behavior such as the

1 transmission of sexually explicit images, hookups,
2 multiple sex partners, group sex, and the use of
3 substances during adolescent sex; and

4 WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as
5 sex education for children and youth and shapes their
6 sexual templates; and

7 WHEREAS, because pornography treats women as objects
8 and commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls
9 they are to be used and teaches boys to be users; and

10 WHEREAS, pornography often depicts rape and abuse as
11 being harmless; and

12 WHEREAS, pornography fosters less egalitarian
13 attitudes and promotes more hostile sexist attitudes
14 of men towards women, increased acceptance of rape
15 myths, greater likelihood of sexual harassment or
16 sexually coercive and forceful behavior by adolescents,
17 increased male sexual aggression towards women, more
18 pronounced male sexual aggression against women by men
19 who are frequent consumers of pornography or who use
20 violent pornography, and increased verbal and physical
21 aggression among both male and female consumers of
22 pornography; and

23 WHEREAS, pornography increases the demand for sex
24 trafficking, prostitution, and child sexual abuse
25 images; and

26 WHEREAS, potential detrimental effects on users of
27 pornography can impact brain function and development,
28 contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape
29 deviant sexual arousal, and promote problematic or
30 harmful sexual behaviors such as harmful child-on-child

1 sexual behaviors that occur in school and homes and on
2 playgrounds or others settings; and

3 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography
4 is potentially biologically addictive, which means the
5 user requires more novelty, often in the form of more
6 shocking material, in order to be satisfied; and

7 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to an
8 increased use of pornography featuring themes of risky
9 sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, child
10 sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and

11 WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to difficulty
12 in forming or maintaining intimate relationships, a
13 lessening desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction
14 in marriage, and infidelity, demonstrating that this
15 link has a detrimental effect on the family unit; and

16 WHEREAS, the obscenity industry considers the
17 line of legality to be drawn by prosecutors, not by
18 legislators, and pornographers in many parts of the
19 country self-regulate when state and federal obscenity
20 laws are enforced; and

21 WHEREAS, overcoming the harm of pornography is
22 beyond the capability of the afflicted individuals to
23 address alone; NOW THEREFORE,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
25 SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly recognizes
26 that pornography is a public health hazard which
27 leads to a broad spectrum of individual and societal
28 harms; recognizes the need for education, prevention,
29 research, and policy changes at the local, state, and
30 national levels to address the pornography epidemic

H.C.R. 8

1 that is harming the people of our state and nation,
2 and calls upon the United States Department of Justice
3 and members of the federal, state, and local criminal
4 justice system to vigorously enforce federal and
5 state obscenity laws against commercialized obscenity
6 and upon Congress to address the crisis of easily
7 accessible pornography on the internet; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
9 Resolution be sent to the Acting Attorney General of
10 the United States Matthew Whitaker, Majority Leader
11 of the United States Senate Mitchell McConnell, Jr.,
12 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
13 Nancy Pelosi, and each member of Iowa's congressional
14 delegation.