

## 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

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.