House Concurrent Resolution 9 - Introduced

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 9
BY JACOBSEN, SALMON, and BAXTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, this exposure leads to low self-esteem and body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and a greater likelihood of engaging in risky sexual behavior such as the
transmission of sexually explicit images, hookups,
multiple sex partners, group sex, and the use of
substances during adolescent sex; and
WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as
sex education for children and youth and shapes their
sexual templates; and
WHEREAS, because pornography treats women as objects
and commodities for the viewer’s use, it teaches girls
they are to be used and teaches boys to be users; and
WHEREAS, pornography often depicts rape and abuse as
being harmless; and
WHEREAS, pornography fosters less egalitarian
attitudes and promotes more hostile sexist attitudes
of men towards women, increased acceptance of rape
myths, greater likelihood of sexual harassment or
sexually coercive and forceful behavior by adolescents,
increased male sexual aggression towards women, more
pronounced male sexual aggression against women by men
who are frequent consumers of pornography or who use
violent pornography, and increased verbal and physical
aggression among both male and female consumers of
pornography; and
WHEREAS, pornography increases the demand for sex
trafficking, prostitution, and child sexual abuse
images; and
WHEREAS, potential detrimental effects on users of
pornography can impact brain function and development,
contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape
deviant sexual arousal, and promote problematic or
harmful sexual behaviors such as harmful child-on-child
sexual behaviors that occur in school and homes and on playgrounds or others settings; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly recognizes that pornography is a public health hazard which leads to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms; recognizes the need for education, prevention, research, and policy changes at the local, state, and national levels to address the pornography epidemic
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that is harming the people of our state and nation,
and calls upon the United States Department of Justice
and members of the federal, state, and local criminal
justice system to vigorously enforce federal and
state obscenity laws against commercialized obscenity
and upon Congress to address the crisis of easily
accessible pornography on the internet; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
Resolution be sent to the Acting Attorney General of
the United States Monty Wilkinson, Majority Leader of
the United States Senate Charles E. Schumer, Speaker
of the United States House of Representatives Nancy
Pelosi, and each member of Iowa's congressional
dlegation.