

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND RECOGNIZING THAT PORNOGRAPHY IS
3 A PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD LEADING TO A BROAD SPECTRUM OF INDIVIDUAL AND
4 PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTS AND ENCOURAGING ALL STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
5 AGENCIES TO ENSURE THAT PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE FROM
6 THEIR INTERNET CONNECTIONS.

7 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health crisis; and

9 WHEREAS, pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic environment; and

10 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to edu-
11 cate individuals and families concerning its harms, and to develop recovery
12 programs must be addressed systemically in ways that hold broader influences
13 accountable; and

14 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the hypersexualization of
15 teens, and even prepubescent children, in our society; and

16 WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the universal availability
17 of the Internet, young children are exposed to what used to be referred to as
18 hard-core but is now considered mainstream pornography at an alarming rate;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the average age of exposure to pornography is now 11 to 12 years
21 of age; and

22 WHEREAS, this early exposure is leading to low self-esteem and body im-
23 age disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages,
24 and an increased desire among adolescents to engage in risky sexual behav-
25 ior; and

26 WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as children's and youths'
27 sex education and shapes their sexual templates; and

28 WHEREAS, pornography treats men, women and children as objects and com-
29 modities for the viewer's use; and

30 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse of men, women and
31 children; and

32 WHEREAS, pornography treats men, women and children as objects and of-
33 ten depicts rape and abuse as if they are harmless; and

34 WHEREAS, pornography equates violence toward men, women and children
35 with sex and equates pain with pleasure, which increases the demand for sex
36 trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse images, and child pornogra-
37 phy; and

38 WHEREAS, using pornography can negatively impact brain development and
39 functioning, contribute to emotional and medical illnesses and lead to dif-
40 ficulty in forming or maintaining intimate relationships, as well as create
41 harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

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

4 WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to increasing themes of risky
5 sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, and child sexual abuse im-
6 ages and child pornography; and

7 WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to a reduced desire in young men and
8 young women to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity; and

9 WHEREAS, this link demonstrates that pornography has a detrimental ef-
10 fect on the family unit; and

11 WHEREAS, overcoming pornography's harms is beyond the capability of the
12 afflicted individual to address alone.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
14 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
15 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature recognizes that pornog-
16 raphy is a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and
17 public health impacts.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes the need for edu-
19 cation, prevention, research and policy change at the community and societal
20 level in order to address the pornography epidemic that is harming the people
21 of our state and nation.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages all state agen-
23 cies, local governments and Idaho political subdivisions to implement poli-
24 cies, procedures and technology to ensure that pornographic materials are
25 not accessible through their Internet access, either by a direct Internet
26 connection or through a wireless Internet connection.