

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 5

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By: **Delegates Parrott, Afzali, Arentz, Beitzel, Carozza, McComas, W. Miller, Rose, Shoemaker, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Exposure to Pornography – Public Health Crisis**

3 FOR the purpose of recognizing that exposure to pornography is a public health crisis;
4 recognizing that it is necessary to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to
5 educate individuals and families on the harms of pornography, and to develop
6 pornography recovery programs; encouraging pornography education, prevention,
7 research, and policy changes in communities in order to address the harms caused
8 by pornography; and generally relating to the public health crisis caused by exposure
9 to pornography.

10 WHEREAS, Due to advances in technology, including the availability of the Internet,
11 minors are exposed to pornography; and

12 WHEREAS, The average age of exposure to hardcore pornography is 11 to 12 years
13 old; and

14 WHEREAS, Pornography is contributing to the hypersexualization of minors; and

15 WHEREAS, The exposure to pornography is contributing to low self-esteem, eating
16 disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity among minors, and an increase in the
17 desire to engage in risky sexual behavior; and

18 WHEREAS, Pornography often serves as sexual education and shapes sexual
19 patterns; and

20 WHEREAS, Pornography depicts women as objects, which teaches girls that they
21 are to be used and boys that they are to be users; and

22 WHEREAS, Pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women and children; and

23 WHEREAS, Pornography often depicts rape and abuse as if rape and abuse were



1 harmless; and

2 WHEREAS, Pornography equates violence toward women and children with sex, and
3 pain with pleasure; and

4 WHEREAS, Pornography increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution,
5 child sexual abuse, and child pornography; and

6 WHEREAS, The potential detrimental effects of pornography include emotional,
7 mental, and medical illnesses, deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming and maintaining
8 intimate relationships, altered brain development and functioning, and problematic and
9 harmful sexual behaviors; and

10 WHEREAS, Pornography is potentially biologically addictive; and

11 WHEREAS, Individuals addicted to pornography require more novel and more
12 shocking pornography in order to be satisfied; and

13 WHEREAS, There is an increased demand for pornography depicting risky sexual
14 behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, child sexual abuse, and child pornography; and

15 WHEREAS, The detrimental effects of pornography on families include the
16 decreased desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
19 Assembly of Maryland recognizes that exposure to pornography is a public health crisis
20 that must be addressed systematically; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland recognizes that it is necessary
22 to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate individuals and families of the
23 harms of pornography, and to develop pornography recovery programs; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland encourages pornography
25 education, prevention, research, and policy changes in communities in order to address the
26 harms caused by pornography; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
28 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the
29 Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., President of the Senate of Maryland; and the
30 Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the House of Delegates.