A RESOLUTION

To declare that pornography is a public health crisis with statewide and national public health impacts leading to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, Pornography is creating a public health crisis that preserves human trafficking and a sexually toxic environment; and

WHEREAS, According to statistics compiled by the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Ohio ranks as the fourth worst state in the nation for human sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Sex trafficking, prostitution, and pornography are all interrelated, in that over half of the victims of sex trafficking report having been required to learn and perform sexual acts according to depictions in pornography; and

WHEREAS, The factors that compel men and women to enter into the pornography industry include poverty, homelessness, a history of childhood sexual or physical abuse, which are similar to the factors that make women, girls, and boys vulnerable to being trafficked for sex; and
WHEREAS, The pornography industry is mostly dominated by producers and directors who recruit and capitalize off of filming the exploitation and sexualization of women; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that there is a correlation between men viewing pornography and an increased rate of interest in rape; and

WHEREAS, Pornography provides sexualized depictions of violence toward women and child pornography provides sexualized depictions of violence toward children, both of which correlate with an increased demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, Due to advances in technology and the universal availability of the Internet, the average child is first being exposed to pornography between eleven and twelve years of age; and

WHEREAS, Potential detrimental effects of pornography on the user are that it can negatively impact the ability for healthy brain development and function, which can contribute to emotional and physical illnesses, shape sexual desires and arousal, and promote problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

WHEREAS, Recent neurological research indicates that pornography is potentially biologically addictive; and

WHEREAS, This biological addiction leads to increasing themes of risky sexual behaviors, degradation, violence, child sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the harm on society that pornography poses, due to the instant access that men, women, and children have to it on the Internet; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of
Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, recognize and acknowledge that pornography is a public health crisis that leads to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, declare that the pornography crisis must be addressed by encouraging education, prevention, research, and policy changes at the community and societal level to confront the public health crisis that pornography has created in relation to human trafficking and the abuse of women and children; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge enforcement of obscenity laws and increased regulation of pornography on the Internet at the state and federal level in order to protect the state's citizens, minors in particular, from such exposure.