

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. R. No. 180

Representative Powell

**Cosponsors: Representatives Becker, Keller, Riedel, Lang, Vitale, Romanchuk,
Smith, T., Koehler, McClain, Merrin, Ginter, Brinkman, Stoltzfus, Blessing,
Grendell, Hood, Dean, Richardson**

A RESOLUTION

To declare that pornography is a public health 1
hazard with statewide and national public health 2
impacts leading to a broad spectrum of individual 3
and societal harms. 4

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

WHEREAS, Pornography is creating a public health crisis that 5
perpetuates human trafficking and a sexually toxic environment; 6
and 7

WHEREAS, According to statistics compiled by the National 8
Human Trafficking Hotline, Ohio ranks as the fourth worst state 9
in the nation for human sex trafficking; and 10

WHEREAS, Sex trafficking, prostitution, and pornography are 11
all interrelated, in that over half of the victims of sex 12
trafficking report having been required to learn and perform 13
sexual acts according to depictions in pornography; and 14

WHEREAS, Sex traffickers often create pornography depicting 15
victims of sex trafficking for display or sale online as a means 16
of increasing income and control over victims; and 17

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 male-dominated by producers and directors who recruit and capitalize off of filming the exploitation, degradation, and sexualization of women; and

WHEREAS, The "#MeToo" movement has exposed how dangerous and harmful it is when men stop viewing women as valued coworkers, neighbors, friends, and family and instead view them as sexual objects; 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 towards women and children, which correlates with an increased demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, Pornography is contributing to the precocious hypersexualization of adolescent and prepubescent children in our society; and

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

WHEREAS, Within and before adolescence, this early exposure may lead to an increase in low self-esteem, problematic sexual activity, and body image disorders; and

WHEREAS, Exposure to pornography often serves as inaccurate

and unwanted sex education, shaping the sexual templates of 49
children and teens by novel and repetitive exposure; and 50

WHEREAS, Potential detrimental effects of pornography on the 51
user are that it can negatively impact healthy brain development 52
and functioning, contribute to emotional and physical illnesses, 53
shape deviant sexual desires and arousal, promote problematic or 54
harmful sexual behaviors and addiction, and lead to difficulty in 55
forming or maintaining positive, intimate relationships; and 56

WHEREAS, Recent neurological research indicates that 57
pornography is potentially biologically addictive, which means 58
the user requires more novelty, often in the form of more 59
shocking material, in order to be satisfied; and 60

WHEREAS, This biological addiction leads to increasing 61
themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, 62
child sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and 63

WHEREAS, Pornography use is correlated with (1) a decreased 64
desire in young men to marry, pursue intimacy, or engage 65
socially, (2) dissatisfaction in marriage, and (3) infidelity, 66
all of which demonstrate that pornography has a detrimental 67
effect on the family unit; and 68

WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the harm on society 69
that pornography poses, due to the unrestrained and instant 70
access that men, women, and children have to it on the Internet; 71
now therefore be it 72

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of 73
Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of 74
Ohio, recognize and acknowledge that pornography is a public 75
health hazard that leads to a broad spectrum of individual and 76
societal harms; and be it further 77

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of 78
Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of 79

Ohio, declare that the pornography epidemic must be addressed by 80
encouraging education, prevention, research, and policy changes 81
at the community and societal level to confront the proliferation 82
of pornography on the Internet and human trafficking; and be it 83
further 84

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of 85
Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of 86
Ohio, urge enforcement of obscenity laws and increased regulation 87
of pornography on the Internet at the state and federal level in 88
order to protect the state's citizens, minors in particular, from 89
such exposure; and be it further 90

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 91
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to each 92
member of the Ohio congressional delegation and the news media of 93
Ohio. 94