

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5
2 INTRODUCED BY J. KARJALA

3
4 A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA EXPRESSING THE
5 SENTIMENT THAT PORNOGRAPHY IS A PUBLIC HEALTH HAZARD THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED
6 THROUGH EDUCATION, PREVENTION, RESEARCH, AND POLICY CHANGE AT THE COMMUNITY AND
7 SOCIETAL LEVEL.

8
9 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 93% of boys and 62% of girls view online pornography during
10 adolescence; and

11 WHEREAS, due to advances in technology and the availability of the internet, young children are
12 frequently exposed to pornography; and

13 WHEREAS, this early exposure is leading to low self-esteem and body image disorders, an increase in
14 problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and greater likelihood of engaging in risky sexual behavior such as
15 sending sexually explicit images, hookups, multiple sex partners, group sex, and using substances during sex
16 as young adolescents; and

17 WHEREAS, exposure to pornography often serves as sex education for children and adolescents and
18 shapes their sexual templates; and

19 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the sexualization of prepubescent children and teens in our
20 society; and

21 WHEREAS, because pornography objectifies women, it teaches girls they are to be used and teaches
22 boys to be users; and

23 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women and children by presenting rape and
24 abuse of women and children as harmless; and

25 WHEREAS, many of the women and children used in pornography have been coerced into participating
26 in pornography as victims of sex trafficking; and

27 WHEREAS, pornography increases sex trafficking of women, sex trafficking of children, child sexual
28 abuse, and child pornography; and

29 WHEREAS, potential detrimental effects on the brain development and functioning of those who consume
30 pornography include psychological and physical distress, deviant sexual arousal, difficulty in forming or

1 maintaining intimate relationships, and problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

2 WHEREAS, recent research indicates that pornography is biologically addictive and over time a user will
3 require more shocking material in order to become excited; and

4 WHEREAS, biological addiction to pornography contributes to increased risky sexual behaviors, extreme
5 degradation, violence, and desire for abusive child sexual images and child pornography; and

6 WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to infidelity; and

7 WHEREAS, pornography has a detrimental effect on the family unit; and

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

9 WHEREAS, pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic environment; and

10 WHEREAS, in instances when federal obscenity laws have been enforced through prosecution in other
11 parts of the country, pornographers in many places have responded by self-regulating; and

12 WHEREAS, an individual addicted to pornography may lack the capacity to overcome the pornography
13 addiction alone; and

14 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, educate individuals and families
15 concerning the harms of pornography, and create recovery programs that hold broader influences accountable
16 must be developed and promoted.

17

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
19 MONTANA:

20 That it is the sentiment of the 66th House of Representatives of the State of Montana that pornography
21 is a public health hazard leading to harmful individual and public health impacts and societal harms.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 66th House of Representatives of the State of Montana calls upon
23 Montana prosecutors to vigorously enforce state sexual solicitation, child pornography, domestic violence, human
24 trafficking, missing and murdered indigenous women, rape, and sexual assault laws.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the sentiment of the 66th House of Representatives of the State
26 of Montana that there is a need for education, prevention, research, and policy change at the community and
27 societal level in order to address the pornography epidemic that is harming the people of our state and nation.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the Governor
29 of the State of Montana, the Attorney General of the State of Montana, the President of the United States, the
30 Attorney General of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of

1 Representatives and the United States Senate, and the Montana Congressional Delegation.

2 - END -