

**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