

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017 - 25.3041.01000

Madam Chair Larson, Vice Chair Paulson, and members of the committee. My name is Mark Enget, and I am a Senator from Powers Lake, District 2.

Today, pornography is found all over the internet. Studies provide proof of the many harms imposed on people of every age, race and sex. Negative impacts affect individuals, marriages, mental health, society, and sadly enough, children. Let's have a look at some of those impacts, and start by considering the damages done to individuals.

1. Impact on Individuals:

- **Addiction:** Regular consumption of pornography often leads to addictive behaviors, where individuals feel compelled to seek out explicit content, often at the expense of daily responsibilities and personal relationships.
- **Desensitization:** Over time, individuals become desensitized to explicit material, leading to a need for more extreme content to achieve the same level of arousal. This can alter perceptions of normal sexual behavior.
- **Distorted Expectations:** Frequent exposure to pornography creates unrealistic expectations about sex, body image, and relationships, leading to dissatisfaction in real-life sexual experiences.

2. Impact on Marriages and Relationships:

- **Decreased Intimacy:** Partners may feel neglected or inadequate if one person prioritizes pornography over the relationship, leading to reduced emotional and physical intimacy.
- **Trust Issues:** The secretive nature of pornography consumption can erode trust between partners, especially when it is hidden or leads to dishonesty.

- **Infidelity Perception:** Some partners view the use of pornography as a form of infidelity, causing emotional pain and conflict within the relationship.

3. Impact on Mental Health:

- **Increased Anxiety and Depression:** Studies have linked pornography consumption to higher levels of anxiety and depression due to feelings of guilt, shame, or social isolation.
- **Body Image Issues:** Comparing oneself to performers in pornography leads to negative body image and self-esteem issues.

4. Impact on Society:

- **Normalization of Violence:** Some forms of pornography depict violent and degrading acts, which eventually leads to the normalization of such behaviors and attitudes in society.
- **Objectification:** Regular exposure to explicit content lends itself to the objectification of individuals, particularly women, reinforcing harmful gender stereotypes.
- **Erosion of Social Values:** Widespread consumption of pornography contributes to the erosion of societal values regarding sex, relationships, and respect for others.

5. Impact on Children:

- **Early Exposure:** Children who are exposed to pornography at a young age develop distorted views of sex and relationships, often leading to harmful behaviors.
- **Developmental Issues:** Early exposure can interfere with healthy sexual development, leading to confusion, anxiety, or inappropriate behavior.
- **Risk of Exploitation:** The production and distribution of child pornography are awful crimes that exploit and harm children, leading to long-term psychological trauma for the victims.

Deep down, I think we all know how harmful and degrading pornography is. Most often, we tend to look away. We really don't want to deal with it. By doing so, we inadvertently contribute to the problem of intentional harm being done to one of God's creatures, both as a child and an adult. Allow me to introduce our guests today who are willing to talk about their personal experiences and how pornography has affected them.

I respectfully request your support in voting for a "Do Pass" on Senate Resolution 4017.