

2025 SENATE JUDICIARY

SCR 4017

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4017
2/12/2025

A concurrent resolution recognizing pornography as a public health hazard.
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10:00 a.m. Chair Larson opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chair Larson, Vice Chairman Paulson, Senators: Castaneda, Cory, Luick, Myrdal, Braunberger.

Discussion Topics:

- Pornography addiction and impacts
- Sex trafficking concerns

10:00 a.m. Senator Enget introduced the bill and submitted testimony in favor #37220.

10:05 a.m. Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director of ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, testified in favor and submitted testimony #37257.

10:08 a.m. Tod Fosetta, Archangel Ministries, testified in favor and submitted testimony #37025.

10:22 a.m. Tami Brown Rodriguez, Director of Policy Jaco Booyens Ministries, testified in favor and submitted testimony #36316.

10:26 a.m. Chair Larson closed the hearing.

10:26 a.m. Senator Myrdal moved a Do Pass.

10:26 a.m. Senator Luick seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Bob Paulson	Y
Senator Ryan Braunberger	Y
Senator Jose L. Castaneda	Y
Senator Claire Cory	Y
Senator Larry Luick	Y
Senator Janne Myrdal	Y

Motion Passed 7-0-0.

10:26 a.m. Senator Myrdal will carry the bill.

Senate Judiciary Committee
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10:26 a.m. Chair Larson closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SCR 4017 ([25.3041.01000](#))

Judiciary Committee (Sen. Larson, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4017 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

Testimony of Tami Brown Rodriguez, Director of Policy for Jaco Booyens Ministries, and Family Member of a Survivor

Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is **Tami Brown Rodriguez**, and as the **Director of Policy for Jaco Booyens Ministries**—an organization on the frontlines of the fight against human trafficking and as a **family member of a survivor**—a loved one who has witnessed firsthand the devastating consequences of pornography's unchecked influence on our society.

My niece, Dakota, was just a child when she was first groomed. It did not start as a trafficker in a dark alley, nor by a stranger on the internet. It started in her school. It started in the library. It started with easy access to pornographic material that normalized the unthinkable. The explicit content that we brush off as “entertainment” was the very foundation that conditioned her mind to accept exploitation. **Porn didn't just harm her—it primed her for trafficking.**

Let me say this plainly: **porn is not just a personal vice—it is a public health crisis.**

Pornography is a **gateway to exploitation**. It is fueling the demand that traffickers are all too eager to supply. Research confirms that exposure to pornography **rewires the brain**, increases violent sexual behavior, and normalizes abuse. Our children—many as young as **8 or 9 years old**—are stumbling across explicit content that they are neither emotionally nor developmentally equipped to process. **We are failing them if we continue to pretend this is harmless.**

This is why states across the country have already taken action. **Utah was the first to declare pornography a public health hazard in 2016, followed by states like Florida, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Louisiana, Texas, and at least 10 others.** They recognize the overwhelming evidence that pornography is not just a moral concern—it is a **societal crisis** affecting brain development, relationships, and, ultimately, public safety. And yet, we are still debating whether to act.

We regulate tobacco, alcohol, and gambling because they are addictive and harmful. **So why are we ignoring the science that tells us pornography has the same addictive qualities, the same devastating mental health effects, and the same public health consequences?**

Ilonka Deaton, a survivor and advocate, speaks to this truth when she says:

"Survivors don't just wake up one day and move on. The damage that pornography does—the way it distorts intimacy, self-worth, and love—leaves scars that take a lifetime to heal. It teaches predators that abuse is normal. It teaches children that their bodies are commodities. And it teaches victims that they have no value beyond their use to others."

We cannot afford another legislative session where this issue is ignored. **The lives of our children, the safety of our communities, and the future of our nation depend on us recognizing this epidemic for what it is.**

Pornography is a public health crisis. And every day that we refuse to call it what it is, another child is groomed, another victim is exploited, and another trafficker profits.

The time to act is now.

Thank you,
Tami Brown Rodriquez
tbr@helpjbm.org

Dear Senators and Representatives:

My name is Tod Fossetta and I am presenting myself to this committee to share testimony regarding SCR 4017.

I have over 30 years' experience working with domestic violence and sex trafficking victims, organizations, shelters and other support services. I am an Ambassador for Shared Hope International, a sex trafficking prevention organization with over 1000 trained ambassadors, and one of the nation's leading policy and political action teams. I have worked with organizations including the Pierce County Coalition for Domestic Violence and the Women's Crisis Shelter in Williston, ND. I have training through Shared Hope, Operation Underground Railroad and the Association for the Recovery of Children. I am a US Army Veteran, and since the murder of my sister in an act of domestic violence in 1984, I believe the Lord has called me to this vocation. I am the Founder of Archangel Miniustries, through which I work with victims, organizations and church groups. One of my primary goals is to educate men on the dangers of pornography, buying sex and the effect it has on them, the community, and the women exploited for those uses.

I fully believe in this resolution, as pornography is most definitely a public health hazard, which is growing at a very rapid rate.

The porn industry is a 100-billion-dollar industry worldwide and the United States accounts for approximately 13 billion of that. There is definite link between the porn industry and sex trafficking, especially minors. The same victims are being used in dance clubs, pornographic videos, and prostitution.

Most experts agree that 90% of males and 20% of females between 14- and 18-years old watch pornography. 46% of adult males and 16% of adult females consume pornography on a frequent basis.

Pornography increases sexual violence. Research indicates that consumers of porn are more likely to objectify others sexually, dehumanize others and likely to express intentions to rape. They are more likely to blame victims of sexual assault, support violence against women and commit violent sexual acts themselves. 15% of videos suggested to new porn users on websites describe acts of sexual violence. Many of the targets of the violence and aggression in porn respond to it with pleasure, sending a message that sexual aggression and violence is more desirable.

Scientific research has shown that high levels of porn consumption can impact a person's neurobiology in a similar way as other behavioral addictions such as drugs and alcohol. Porn can take our brains' natural stimuli and our desire for intimacy and give us more quantity, more exaggerated, and more heightened versions of that desire. Over time, porn can change what we perceive as normal, twist what we find exciting, and make real intimacy seem less interesting by comparison. There seems to be a trend towards younger generations of men

and women avoiding actual relationships because they are not as exciting as their virtual relationships with pornography.

Several studies have found a link between consuming pornography and low self-esteem, anxiety, loneliness and depression. I can tell you through my personal experience, this is very real. The users I have counseled are filled with shame, guilt and self-loathing. Most porn consumers find that porn is very hard to quit. While some are not addicts in a clinical sense, many experts agree that pornography consumption is a behavior that can, in fact, qualify as an addiction in many cases. Regardless of whether someone's porn consumption is classified as an addiction, compulsion, or simply an unhealthy habit, quitting porn can be a difficult process.

I believe identifying pornography as a public health hazard would be a great step in starting to combat this fast-growing problem. Making resources available for education of young people, parents and educators, as well as treatment and peer groups for those involved would be prudent.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue, I will gladly answer any questions you may have.

Tod Fossetta

Archangel Ministries

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.



Testimony in Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4017

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
February 12, 2025

Dear Madam Chair Larson and honorable members of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 4017 and respectfully request that you render a "DO PASS" on this resolution.

Our organization is strongly opposed to the creation, distribution, and sale of pornographic materials. While we understand the First Amendment protections afforded corporations and individuals involved in pornography, we also know of the harm it causes. Irreparable harm is caused to numerous areas of life by pornography, not to mention the more extreme obscene elements of pornography such as child pornography, sexual abuse images, and non-consensual filming of sex acts.

Pornography has infiltrated all of our lives in one way or another. This resolution seeks to recognize that pornography is a serious public health and moral issue in our society, and should be dealt with accordingly. We believe human sexuality was designed and intended for our good within the bond of a committed, lifelong marriage between a man and woman. It may sound old fashioned, but it is the basis for the family, society, and government. Once the foundation begins to crumble, the rest comes down with it rather swiftly.

For these reasons, we ask that you render a "DO PASS" on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4017. Thank you for taking the time to read our testimony and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Jorritsma". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a cursive "Jorritsma".

Mark Jorritsma
Executive Director

2025 HOUSE EDUCATION

SCR 4017

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SCR 4017
3/17/2025

A concurrent resolution recognizing pornography as a public health hazard.
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3:24 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Pornography
- Definition of public health hazard
- Committee action

3:25 p.m. Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director, ND Family Alliance Legislative Action, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #41873

3:27 p.m. Christopher Dodson, Co-Director, ND Catholic Conference, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #42203

3:29 p.m. Recess

3:38 p.m. Chairman Heinert Called the hearing back to order.

3:38 p.m. Vice Chairman Schriber-Beck proposed making SCR 4017 a study.

3:40 p.m. Representative Hatlestad seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	N
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	N
Representative Andrew Marschall	N
Representative Desiree Morton	N
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion Carried:10-4-0

Additional written testimony:

Tod Fossetta, Archangel Ministries, submitted testimony in favor. #41983

Mark Enget, Senator, North Dakota Senate, submitted testimony in favor. #42993

3:42 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Addison Randazzo for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

Bill further amended 3/24/25



Testimony in Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4017

Mark Jorritsma, Executive Director
North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action
March 17, 2025

Dear Chairman Heinert and honorable members of the House Education Committee,

North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action would like to submit testimony in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4017 and respectfully request that you render a “DO PASS” on this resolution.

Our organization is strongly opposed to the creation, distribution, and sale of pornographic materials. While we understand the First Amendment protections afforded corporations and individuals involved in pornography, we also know of the harm it causes. Irreparable harm is caused to numerous areas of life by pornography, as articulated in the resolution, not to mention the more extreme obscene elements of pornography such as child pornography and non-consensual filming of sex acts. Pornography has infiltrated all of our lives in one way or another, and this resolution seeks to recognize the significant detrimental effects it has on our society.

Although not directly addressed in this resolution, North Dakota Family Alliance Legislative Action is also in support of this resolution because we believe pornography to be a moral issue. We believe human sexuality was designed and intended for our good within the bond of a committed, lifelong marriage between a man and woman. It may sound old fashioned, but it is the basis for the family, society, and government. Once the foundation begins to crumble, the rest comes down with it rather swiftly.

For these reasons, we ask that you render a “DO PASS” on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4017. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I’d be happy to stand for any questions.

Dear Senators and Representatives:

My name is Tod Fossetta and I am presenting myself to this committee to share testimony regarding SCR 4017.

I have over 30 years' experience working with domestic violence and sex trafficking victims, organizations, shelters and other support services. I am an Ambassador for Shared Hope International, a sex trafficking prevention organization with over 1000 trained ambassadors, and one of the nation's leading policy and political action teams. I have worked with organizations including the Pierce County Coalition for Domestic Violence and the Women's Crisis Shelter in Williston, ND. I have training through Shared Hope, Operation Underground Railroad and the Association for the Recovery of Children. I am a US Army Veteran, and since the murder of my sister in an act of domestic violence in 1984, I believe the Lord has called me to this vocation. I am the Founder of Archangel Miniustries, through which I work with victims, organizations and church groups. One of my primary goals is to educate men on the dangers of pornography, buying sex and the effect it has on them, the community, and the women exploited for those uses.

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Pornography increases sexual violence. Research indicates that consumers of porn are more likely to objectify others sexually, dehumanize others and likely to express intentions to rape. They are more likely to blame victims of sexual assault, support violence against women and commit violent sexual acts themselves. 15% of videos suggested to new porn users on websites describe acts of sexual violence. Many of the targets of the violence and aggression in porn respond to it with pleasure, sending a message that sexual aggression and violence is more desirable.

Scientific research has shown that high levels of porn consumption can impact a person's neurobiology in a similar way as other behavioral addictions such as drugs and alcohol. Porn can take our brains' natural stimuli and our desire for intimacy and give us more quantity, more exaggerated, and more heightened versions of that desire. Over time, porn can change what we perceive as normal, twist what we find exciting, and make real intimacy seem less interesting by comparison. There seems to be a trend towards younger generations of men

and women avoiding actual relationships because they are not as exciting as their virtual relationships with pornography.

Several studies have found a link between consuming pornography and low self-esteem, anxiety, loneliness and depression. I can tell you through my personal experience, this is very real. The users I have counseled are filled with shame, guilt and self-loathing. Most porn consumers find that porn is very hard to quit. While some are not addicts in a clinical sense, many experts agree that pornography consumption is a behavior that can, in fact, qualify as an addiction in many cases. Regardless of whether someone's porn consumption is classified as an addiction, compulsion, or simply an unhealthy habit, quitting porn can be a difficult process.

I believe identifying pornography as a public health hazard would be a great step in starting to combat this fast-growing problem. Making resources available for education of young people, parents and educators, as well as treatment and peer groups for those involved would be prudent.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue, I will gladly answer any questions you may have.

Tod Fossetta

Archangel Ministries



Representing the Diocese of Fargo
and the Diocese of Bismarck

103 South Third Street
Suite 10
Bismarck ND 58501
701-223-2519
ndcatholic.org
ndcatholic@ndcatholic.org

To: House Education Committee
From: Christopher Dodson, Co-Director
Subject: Senate Concurrent Resolution 4017
Date: March 17, 2025

The North Dakota Catholic Conference supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 4017 which would recognize pornography as a public health hazard.

Pornography is pervasive in society today, largely due to easy access to online porn through technological devices. It is estimated that roughly 25% of all internet searches are porn-related, and around 68 million porn searches are done each day. It is also estimated that around 30% of all internet websites are now pornographic. Up to 42% of women and 80% of men in the United States watched pornography within the last year.

Pornography is big business. Annual revenues from pornography worldwide are estimated to be around \$97 billion per year, and annual revenues in the United States are around \$13 billion per year. To put this in context, the total revenue generated by pornography each year exceeds the combined revenues each year of Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple, and Netflix.

Consuming pornography is often considered a harmless act without consequences. But this is wrong. The harmful effects of pornography are so extensive today that it could be characterized as an epidemic:

- *Degrades the Person/Distorts Sexuality* Pornography objectifies people and treats them as sexual objects in violation of their dignity. It also distorts human sexuality from being an intimate and sacred expression of love between spouses into a form of recreation in which persons are used for sexual pleasure.
- *Addiction* Pornography is highly addictive, with around 10% of all adults admitting to having a porn addiction, and the numbers are rising. One recent study found that 11% of men and 3% of women reported that they were addicted to pornography. This has led to isolation, shame, guilt, and feelings of hopelessness. Porn addiction also often leads to promiscuity, risky sexual behavior, and sometimes criminal sexual activity.
- *Sex Trafficking/Commercial Sex Exploitation* Shared Hope International, an organization working to end sex trafficking, says that pornography is now the primary gateway for purchasing human beings for commercial sex. Frequent male users of pornography are significantly more likely to have sold and purchased other people for sex than other males of the same age. Alarming, child pornography is now one of the fastest growing forms of pornography.

- Divorce/Harm to Marriages The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers reports 56% of divorces involve one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites. Even in those marriages that do not end in divorce, the innocent spouse who discovers a husband or wife using pornography reports feeling deceived, betrayed, and having a sense of trauma. Data also indicates husbands and wives who use pornography are more likely to have an extramarital affair.
- Harm to Children Pornography destroys a child's innocence. The average age of first exposure to pornography is now 9 years of age, and an estimated 90% of kids ages 8-16 today have viewed pornography online. Porn viewing by adolescents is associated with poor academic performance and mental health issues. Early exposure by children to pornography also leads to a greater likelihood of developing an addiction, sexually abusing another child, and having a greater risk of sexually aggressive behavior later in life.
- Harm to Actors Beyond objectifying themselves and others, and degrading the sanctity of human sexuality, porn actors face serious health risks, such as contracting sexually transmitted diseases and high rates of drug and alcohol abuse.

The Catholic Church is resolute in its condemnation of pornography. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states "Pornography ... does grave injury to the dignity of its participants (actors, vendors, the public), since each one becomes an object of base pleasure and illicit profit for others. It immerses all who are involved in the illusion of a fantasy world. It is a grave offense. Civil authorities should prevent the production and distribution of pornographic materials" (CCC 2354). Pope Francis has also warned that pornography can lead to addiction and "satisfaction without relationship," and recently referred to pornography as "a language of the devil." The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has been so concerned about the corrosive effects of pornography in people's lives that it issued a lengthy pastoral letter to address the problem, *Create in Me a Clean Heart*.

Recognizing the tremendous harm caused by pornography, eighteen states since 2016 have declared pornography to be a public health crisis (AK, AL, AZ, FL, ID, KS, KY, LA, MO, MT, OH, OK, PA, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA). It would be an important first step in combatting the scourge of pornography in our state for North Dakota to do the same.

We urge a **Do Pass** recommendation on Senate Concurrent Resolution 4017.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017 - 25.3041.01000

Chairman Heinert, Vice Chair Schreiber-Beck, 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.

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- **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.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SCR 4017
3/24/2025

A concurrent resolution recognizing pornography as a public health hazard.
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10:55 a.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

11:00 a.m. Representative Schreiber-Beck moved amendment LC#25.3041.01001. #43648

11:00 a.m. Representative Conmy seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	N
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	N
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	N
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	N

Motion carried: 10-4-0

11:03 a.m. Representative Heilman moved Do Pass as amended.

11:04 a.m. Representative Hauck seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y

Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 14-0-0

11:05 a.m. Representative Heilman moved to place the bill on the consent calander.

11:05 a.m. Representative Novak seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion carried: 14-0-0

Bill Carrier: Representative Hauck

Additional written testimony:

Desiree Morton, Representative, North Dakota House of Representatives, submitted testimony in favor. #43651

11:06 a.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

Addison Randazzo for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017

Introduced by

Senators Enget, Hogan, Hogue, Klein, Mathern

1 A concurrent resolution ~~recognizing~~ directing the Legislative Management to consider studying
2 whether pornography ~~is~~ is a public health hazard.

3 **WHEREAS**, each day, countless people are exposed to sexually explicit content through a
4 wide range of media, and these consumers often are unaware of the health risks posed by such
5 material; and

6 **WHEREAS**, children are encountering pornography before their teens, and this early
7 exposure may lead to low self-esteem and body image disorders and an increased desire to
8 engage in risky sexual behavior; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in addition to promoting unhealthy sexual expectations, the adult entertainment
10 industry produces media that objectifies women and children, as well as depicts rape and
11 abuse; by associating violence with sexual gratification, these materials perpetuate the demand
12 for sex trafficking, prostitution, child pornography, and sexual abuse images; and

13 **WHEREAS**, pornography has been linked to detrimental health effects, including brain
14 development complications, emotional and medical afflictions, the inability to form and maintain
15 intimate relationships, and sexual addiction; these dangers not only affect people on an
16 individual level but also contribute to the degradation of the family unit, frequently leading to
17 marital dissatisfaction and infidelity; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the ubiquity of pornography has resulted in a host of societal problems and
19 potentially negative health effects, and it is of paramount importance that our leaders address
20 this critical public health issue;

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
22 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

1 That the ~~Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly hereby recognize~~ Legislative Management
2 consider studying whether pornography as is a public health hazard, ~~and recognize the need for~~
3 ~~education, prevention, research, and policy changes to address the harmful influence and~~
4 ~~consequences of pornography; and~~

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the ~~Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution~~
6 ~~to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and the Attorney~~
7 ~~General~~ Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any
8 legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SCR 4017**

Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS** ([25.3041.01001](#)) and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4017 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

25.3041.01001
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Representative Heinert
March 21, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017

Introduced by

Senators Enget, Hogan, Hogue, Klein, Mathern

A concurrent resolution ~~recognizing~~ directing the Legislative Management to consider studying whether pornography ~~is~~ is a public health hazard.

WHEREAS, each day, countless people are exposed to sexually explicit content through a wide range of media, and these consumers often are unaware of the health risks posed by such material; and

WHEREAS, children are encountering pornography before their teens, and this early exposure may lead to low self-esteem and body image disorders and an increased desire to engage in risky sexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, in addition to promoting unhealthy sexual expectations, the adult entertainment industry produces media that objectifies women and children, as well as depicts rape and abuse; by associating violence with sexual gratification, these materials perpetuate the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child pornography, and sexual abuse images; and

WHEREAS, pornography has been linked to detrimental health effects, including brain development complications, emotional and medical afflictions, the inability to form and maintain intimate relationships, and sexual addiction; these dangers not only affect people on an individual level but also contribute to the degradation of the family unit, frequently leading to marital dissatisfaction and infidelity; and

WHEREAS, the ubiquity of pornography has resulted in a host of societal problems and potentially negative health effects, and it is of paramount importance that our leaders address this critical public health issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

1 That the ~~Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly hereby recognize~~Legislative Management
2 consider studying whether pornography ~~asis~~ a public health hazard, ~~and recognize the need for~~
3 ~~education, prevention, research, and policy changes to address the harmful influence and~~
4 ~~consequences of pornography~~; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the ~~Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution~~
6 ~~to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and the Attorney~~
7 ~~General~~Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any
8 legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

Facts About Today's Pornography
Unabridged
 John D. Foubert, Ph.D.
<https://www.johnfoubert.com/is-porn-bad>

How Many People Use Pornography?

1. 94% of men and 87% of women have seen pornography at some point in their lifetime (Herbenick et al., 2020).
2. Among users of Amazon.com, 92% of men and 60% of women viewed some form of pornography in the previous month. The three primary kinds of pornography consumed were written pornography, pictures, and videos. Videos were consumed most often, but women were much more likely to consume written pornography than men (Solano, et al., 2020).
3. About half of 8th graders have viewed pornography. Such viewing made early sexual debut, unsafe sex, and multiple sexual partners more likely (Lin, et al., 2020).
4. On average, boys see pornography first at the age of 13 and girls at the age of 17 (Herbenick et al., 2020).
5. Pornography use increased by 11% during the Covid pandemic (Mestre-Bach et al., 2020).
6. Data released by the world's most popular Internet porn site, reveal that in 2019 alone, there were over 42 billion visits to its website (Pornhub, 2019).
7. If you watched all the new videos uploaded in just one year on the world's most popular pornography site, it would take you 168 years to watch them all (McTavish, 2020).
8. Today, pornography is most often accessed through cell phones (Herbenick et al., 2020).
9. 64% of adult men and 42% of adult women view pornography at least monthly (Digital Journal, 2014).
10. 63% of young men (18-30) view pornography once a week or more. 79% view it at least monthly (Barna, 2014).
11. 19% of young women (18-30) view porn once a week or more; 34% view it at least monthly (Barna, 2014).
12. In the 1970s, 45% of young adult men viewed an X rated movie at least annually (Price et al., 2015).
13. In the 1990s, found that 61% of young adult men were viewing porn, just before the Internet boom (Price et al., 2015).
14. In the 2000s, with the Internet, 86% of young adult men were viewing pornography (Braun-Courville & Rojas, 2009; Carroll et al., 2008).
15. In the 1970s, 28% of young adult women had viewed an X rated movie at least annually (Price et al., 2015).
16. In the 2000s, 36% of young adult women had viewed pornography (Price et al., 2015).
17. Well over two-thirds of 15-17 year old adolescents have seen porn websites when they did not intend to access them (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2001).
18. Between 2008 and 2011, exposure to porn among boys under the age of 13 jumped from 14% to 49%. Boys' daily use more than doubled (Sun et al., 2014).
19. The average child sees Internet pornography for the first time at age 11 (Dines, 2010; DeKeseredy & Corsianos, 2016).

What is in Pornography?

1. Over the past decade the levels of violent porn, gore porn, child porn, and racist acts depicted in porn have increased exponentially (DeKeseredy, 2015).
2. During the last decade, interest in pornography featuring teens (above and below the age of consent) has significantly increased (Walker, Makin, & Morczek, 2016).
3. Female performers in pornographic video clips are very likely to express pleasure when aggression (such as spanking, forced vaginal or anal penetration, and forced gagging) is directed toward them; particularly if the performer is a teenager. Such videos perpetuate the notion that women enjoy being subject to aggressive and demeaning sexual behaviors (Shor, 2018).
4. On just one pornography site, 33.5 Billion visitors accessed pornography in 2018. Daily visits to the site now exceed 100 million. The site logs 962 searches a second. Every minute 63,992 new visitors access its content (pornhub.com).
5. The more degrading pornography men watch, the more likely they are to objectify the women in that pornography (Skorska, Hodson & Hoffarth, 2018).

Is Pornography Violent?

1. Both pornography and alcohol consumption are unique predictors of sexual assault victimization for college females; the combined effect of pornography and alcohol dramatically increases the odds of victimization. One reason for this is that pornography minimizes sexually aggressive acts (de Heer, et al., 2020).
2. Men are more likely than women to become aroused by pornographic images featuring rape. Men who equate sexuality with expression of aggression and power were more likely to prefer rape porn than other men (Carvalho & Rosa, 2020).
3. With increasingly high use of porn, it becomes more likely that men will be likely to rape, likely to commit sexual assault, be sexually entitled, and have hostility toward women (Goodson, et al., 2020).
4. Men who consume more pornography, particularly male-dominant pornography, are more likely to use sexual force in their own relationships (De Heer et al., 2020).
5. Violence against women in pornography is commonly seen. For example, 72% of men and 46% of women have seen pornography where a man ejaculated on a woman's face (Herbenick et al., 2020).
6. Rape porn has been seen by 21% of men and 11% of women (Herbenick et al., 2020).
7. BDSM porn has been seen by 45% of men and 33% of women (Herbenick et al., 2020).

8. People often imitate what they have seen in pornography. For example, 20% of men and 12% of women have choked someone during sex, 11% of men and 21% of women have been choked during sex, and 48% of men have ejaculated on a woman's face (Herbenick et al., 2020).
9. Men's consumption of pornography, particularly violent pornography, is associated with more aggressive behavior toward female partners. This relationship is even stronger when the man is sexist, feels justified in committing violence, and views women as sexual objects (Rodriguez & Fernandez-Gonzales, 2019).
10. Women who use pornography are more likely to commit non-consensual sexual activity, particularly using emotional manipulation and deception of their male partners (Hughes et al., 2020).
11. Pornography, especially violent pornography, shows association with increases in sexual assault related attitudes and past history of assaultive behavior (Bridges, 2019).
12. The more pornography men use, the more they see women as objects, not as people (Seabrook et al., 2019).
13. 45% of scenes in online pornography include at least one act of physical aggression. Spanking, gagging, slapping, hair pulling, and choking are the five most common forms of physical aggression (Fritz et al., 2020).
14. In pornography with aggression, women are the target in 97% of the scenes, and their response to aggression was either neutral or positive and rarely negative. Men were the perpetrators of aggression against women in 76% of scenes (Fritz et al., 2020).
15. 29% of male 10th graders have seen violent pornography (Rostad et al., 2019).
16. 16% of female 10th graders have seen violent pornography (Rostad et al., 2019).
17. Boys who have seen violent pornography are over twice as likely to report committing sexual violence and physical violence against a dating partner (Rostad et al., 2019).
18. Girls who have seen violent pornography are more likely to experience sexual violence from a dating partner (Rostad et al., 2019).
19. Among those who have seen "rough sex" in pornography (behaviors including hair pulling, spanking, scratching, biting, bondage, fisting, and double penetration) 91% wanted to take part in such behaviors and 82% had taken part in at least one of the behaviors. This lends credence to the assertion that watching pornography can lead to behavior, including behavior involving violence (Vogels & O'Sullivan, 2019).
20. Rigorous laboratory studies find significant associations between watching pornography and inducing aggression supportive attitudes and behaviors (Bridges, 2019).
21. Among women imprisoned for making child pornography, 60% had a history of sexual abuse while 46% reported physical abuse (Bickart et al., 2019).
22. Pornography routinely depicts objectification of and violence against women. These images create abnormal sexual expectations, leading to making sexual advances that are unwanted, that can lead to violence (Sun, Ezzell, & Kendall, 2017).
23. Men's consumption of pornography impacts their views of women in measurable ways—including, but not limited to, objectification, acceptance of sexual mistreatment of women, and making unwanted sexual advances toward women (Mikorski & Syzmanski, 2017; Wright & Bae, 2015).
24. Pornography use is most likely to lead to sexual violence when the pornography is especially violent, when the individual has peer support for sexual violence, and when the individual is hypermasculine and emphasizes impersonal sex (Hald & Malamuth, 2015).
25. When compared to non-users, those exposed to softer forms of pornography have greater rape myth acceptance and a higher likelihood of committing rape (Romero-Sanchez, Toro-Garcia, Horvath, & Megias, 2017).
26. When a man is already predisposed to aggression in other realms, violent pornography is particularly influential in producing increased sexual aggression (Baer, Kohut, & Fisher, 2015).
27. Watching pornography often leads to acts of sexual violence or risky sexual behaviors such as multiple partners and unprotected sex (Van Oosten, Jochen, & Vandenbosch, 2017).
28. Child abusers under age 21 report difficulty controlling their pornography use and often cite such use as a factor leading to their abuse of other children (McKibbin et al., 2017).
29. Characteristics of men that are associated with a higher likelihood of viewing child pornography include ever having sex with a male, holding the perception of children as seductive, having friends who have watched child pornography, frequent pornography use, greater than average aggressive tendencies, ever viewing violent pornography, and engaging in sexually coercive behavior (Seto, Hermann, Kjellgren, Priebe, Svedin, & Langstrom, 2015).
30. One reason why pornography use is connected to sexually coercive behavior is that viewers begin to develop sexual scripts that involve coercion and then seek to act them out in real life (Marshall, Miller, & Bouffard, 2018).
31. Among men at high risk for committing acts of sexual aggression, watching violent pornography or child pornography adds to the risk for committing sexual assault, essentially adding fuel to the fire they have for committing sexual violence. In some cases, viewing pornography serves as a tipping point that leads an at risk person who might not act out to actually do so (Malamuth, 2018).
32. The more men and women watch pornography, the less likely they are to intervene to help prevent a sexual assault from happening (Foubert & Bridges, 2017).
33. 88% of the scenes in today's mainstream pornography include violence, usually by a man toward a woman (Bridges et al., 2010).
34. 95% of the time when a man hits a woman in pornography, she responds with pleasure or has no response at all (Bridges et al., 2010).
35. 45% of the pornography clips on the Internet include at least one man ejaculating on a woman's face (Gorman et al., 2010).
36. Brain scans of men watching pornography react to women as if they are objects, not people. This leads to more violence against women (Eberstadt & Layden, 2010; Haslam & Loughnan, 2014).
37. Porn use increases the likelihood a man will commit sexual violence, especially if he is impulsive and uses pornography frequently (Kingston et al., 2009).
38. Over 100 studies show that pornography use is correlated with and is the cause of violence (Malamuth et al., 2000).
39. 22 recent studies from 7 countries found that whether you use correlational, cross-sectional, or longitudinal research designs, pornography

and sexual violence are directly connected (Wright et al., 2015).

40. 500 studies of the connection between pornography and the broad category of "gender based violence" found that pornography use leads to gender-based violence (Waltman, 2014).
41. Thousands of revenge porn websites allow men to upload naked or pornographic pictures of a former girlfriend or wife for everyone in the world to see (Hart, 2014).
42. Children are particularly susceptible to what they see in pornography. The more they view it, the more they perform the violent acts they see in porn (Wright, 2014).
43. Women in the pornography industry are three times as likely to have been sexually abused as children, 50% more likely to be living in poverty, and twice as likely as the average woman to have grown up in poverty (DeKeseredy & Corsianos, 2016; Waltman, 2014).

Is Pornography Racist?

1. In the category of "Asian Women" pornography, over two thirds of aggressive acts were committed by men; 88% of the targets of aggressive acts were women (Yanyah & Bryant, 2016).
2. In a study of mainstream pornography and aggression, black women were more often the target of aggression than white women (Fritz et al, 2020).
3. Black men are more often portrayed as the perpetrators of aggression against women and are depicted as significantly less intimate with their partners compared to white men (Fritz et al., 2020).
4. The most aggression in porn scenes occurs between black couples (Fritz et al., 2020).

What Happens if You Use A Lot of Porn?

1. Many reasons are cited for relapse among non-religious people who are problematic pornography users. Frequently, emotional and relationship factors, in particular, overlap just prior to relapse. For example, emotional factors include feeling stressed about school, work, or relationships; feeling depressed partially due to lack of social interaction; feeling hopeless due to lack of success with romantic relationships; feeling frustrated with specific relationships; and/or with the actual struggle to stop using pornography. Relational factors can include frustrations with a romantic partner or with others as well (Rackham, 2020).
2. Veterans are at a greater risk than men in the general population for developing problematic pornography use. Factors associated with veteran's problematic pornography use include being younger, less educated, having depression, anxiety, PTSD, insomnia, and impulsivity. Problematic pornography use was characterized by distress about using pornography, excessive use, difficulty controlling use, and using it to avoid negative emotions (Shirk, et al., 2021).
3. Two risk factors for problematic pornography use are having a substance use disorder and having a history of childhood abuse (Mauer-Vakil & Anees, 2020).
4. Men who have problematic pornography use report that it gave them unrealistic expectations when it came to sex and sexuality, affected the way they viewed women, and led to diminished sexual function (Sniewski & Farvid, 2020).
5. Frequent pornography use is associated with sexual dissatisfaction, greater preference for porn-like sex, and relationship dissatisfaction (Miller et al., 2019).
6. Problematic pornography use is associated with sexual functioning problems for both men and women (Bothe et al, 2021).

How Does Porn Affect Relationships?

1. The more people use pornography, the more likely they are to experience a romantic break-up (Perry & Davis, 2017).
2. Married people who view pornography are more likely to believe that their marriage is in trouble, more likely to discuss ending the marriage, and more likely to repeatedly break up compared to those who do not view pornography (Perry, 2020).
3. Married people who view pornography are less likely to view their relationship as good or strong, less likely to feel like a team with their spouse, less likely to think their relationship makes them happy, and less likely to believe their relationship is nearly perfect than people who abstain (Perry, 2020).
4. Married people who use pornography more frequently are less satisfied with their marriage (Perry, 2020).
5. Consent is rarely depicted in pornographic media nor is an expression of affection (Bridges, 2019).
6. The primary reason men don't talk about their pornography use is the guilt and shame associated with it (Sniewski & Farvid, 2020).

How Does Porn Affect Mental Health?

1. Using pornography is associated with less satisfaction in relationships, less close relationships, more loneliness and more depression (Hesse & Floyd, 2019).
2. Women who use pornography are more likely to have false or stereotyped views about rape and are more self-conscious about their bodies (Maas & Dewey, 2018).
3. In a study looking at brain scans of males, neurologists found that the brain activity among heavy porn users showed a behavioral addiction, much like substance and gambling addiction (Gola, Wordecha, Sescousse, Lew-Starowicz, Kossowski, Wypych, Makeig, Potenza & Marchewka, 2017).
4. Women whose partners use pornography are more likely to have eating disorders (Tyłka & Calogero 2019).
5. Men who have high levels of pornography use are less likely to get married than are men with moderate levels of use (Perry & Longest, 2018).

6. The more a married person consumes pornography the less satisfied they are in their marriage (Perry, 2016).

How Common is Revenge Porn?

1. 1 in 12 U.S. adults report that they have been a victim of "revenge porn." 1 in 20 report perpetration of revenge porn (Ruvalcaba & Eaton, 2020).
2. Women are more likely to be victims of revenge porn than men. Women who experience revenge porn report higher rates of psychological problems (Ruvalcaba & Eaton, 2020).
3. 92% of victims of revenge porn are women (Uhl et al, 2018).

How Does Porn Affect Sex?

1. People who watch pornography experience decreased levels of sexual satisfaction and experience erectile dysfunction at higher rates as compared to those who do not watch pornography regularly (Wery & Billieux, 2016).
2. Regular consumers of pornography report lower levels of satisfaction with their sexual performance, questions about their virility, lower levels of self-esteem, and more body-image issues (Sun, Bridges, Johnson, & Ezzell, 2016).
3. The more pornography people viewed, the less sexually satisfied they are (Wright, Bridges, Sun, Ezzell, & Johnson, 2017).
4. With increased pornography use, people have more risky sex, more non-consensual sex, and less sexual intimacy (Braithwaite, Coulson, Keddington, & Fincham, 2015).
5. Women whose partners use porn are less satisfied sexually, with their relationship in general, and with their bodies (Wright & Tokunaga, 2017).
6. When adolescents are exposed to pornography, they are less likely to use condoms if they engage in sexual intercourse. However, if these adolescents had conversations with their parents about the importance of wearing condoms, the "pornography effect" went away (Wright et al., 2020).
7. Men who view pornography more frequently are less likely to use condoms during partnered sex (Wright et al, 2019).
8. Adolescents who use pornography are more likely to be having sex than their abstaining counterparts (Wright & Vangeel, 2019).
9. Pornography use leads to sexual dissatisfaction, being more critical of one's body or that of one's partner, increased pressure to perform, and less partnered sex (de Alarcon et al, 2019).
10. Sexting is increasingly common among people age 18-29. In that age group, 38% of sent sext messages and 42% have received them. 15% of people have had their sext messages forwarded without their permission (Mori et al., 2020).
11. Men with low self esteem are especially likely to use pornography as a way to over-conform to male norms like having emotional control and being self-reliant (Borgogna et al., 2020).
12. The more pornography men view, the less satisfied they are with their partner – both generally and with their sexual relationship (Bridges, 2016).
13. The more pornography a man watches, the more he also watches porn on a mobile device *during* a sexual encounter (Sun et al., 2015).
14. The more time a man watches porn, the more likely he is to ask his partner to do things he saw in porn (Sun et al., 2015).
15. The more a man watches porn, the more he has to think about what he saw in porn to remain aroused (Sun et al., 2015).
16. The more a man watches porn, the more he is concerned with how he performs sexually. (Sun et al., 2015).
17. The more men use porn, the less they enjoy sex and the worse they feel about how their body looks. (Sun et al., 2015).
18. The most common behavior men ask female partners to do from what they learned is porn is to engage in anal sex. Females describe this as painful, risky, and coercive (Marston & Lewis, 2014).

Does Porn Cause ED?

1. The more pornography men view the more likely they are to experience erectile dysfunction (Begovic, 2019).
2. Men who end up having erectile dysfunction from porn tend to start using pornography during adolescence, begin using it daily to a point where only extreme content produces arousal. Men then reach a stage where they can only be aroused by extreme, fast paced pornography which leaves real sexual intercourse seeming undesirable. This lack of desirability leads to erectile dysfunction. Some men then give up pornography to "re-boot" and regain their ability to obtain and maintain an erection (Begovic, 2019).
3. Men who use pornography almost daily have erectile dysfunction rates of 44% while those who use pornography less often have ED rates at 22% (Berger et al, 2019).
4. Among adolescent boys 27% report having experienced erectile dysfunction (O'Sullivan et al., 2014).
5. Among young adult men, 30% report erectile dysfunction (Mialon et al., 2012).
6. Until recently, rates of ED among men under 40 were low. In 1999, rates were around 5%. This was before the Internet as we know it made pornography so easily accessible. Recent studies on ED show a rate of ED in men under 40 of 28-33% (Park et al., 2016).
7. 60% of men who are addicted to pornography have erectile dysfunction with a woman, but not when they use pornography (Voon et al., 2014).
8. In the 1940s, less than 1% of men under 30 had erectile dysfunction (Kinsey et al, 1948).
9. In the 1990s, with more porn available, 7% of men under 30 had erectile dysfunction (Laumann et al., 1999).
10. In the 2010's, with Internet porn, 26% of male adolescents and 30% of men report ED (Mialon et al, 2012; O'Sullivan et al, 2014).
11. In the U.S. military, 33% of men age 21-40 have ED (Wilcox et al, 2014).
12. From 2004 to 2013, ED more than doubled in the military (Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center, 2014).

13. Doctors report that in the 20th century, almost no men under 40 complained of ED. Today, one in four new ED patients are under the age of 40 (Capogrosso et al., 2013).
14. Men who consume porn more than once a week have ED levels twice as high as men who consume less than once a week (Damiano et al., 2015).

How Does Porn Affect the Brain?

1. Studies of the brain show that if someone is addicted to pornography they tend to have problems at work and with carrying out matters of daily living (DeSousa & Lodha, 2017).
2. Brain science has shown that people addicted to pornography have their past maps for normal sexuality rewired and reinforced by pornography to prefer more explicit, graphic images in order to maintain arousal (DeSousa & Lodha, 2017).
3. Brain science has found that the more hours per week someone uses pornography, the less gray matter volume they have in their brain. In addition, connected tissues that are associated with healthy brain functioning begin to deteriorate with increasing hours of use (DeSousa & Lodha, 2017).
4. Empirical evidence shows that the psychological and neurobiological aspects of addictive disorders also happen with pornography use (Brand, 2019).
5. In a sample of older men, researchers found that ¼ go through withdrawal when they can't access pornography (Calvo et al, 2019).
6. Among adolescents age 12-16, pornography addiction impairs recent verbal memory (Prawiroharjo et al, 2019).
7. Over time, pornography use re-routes the neural pathways in the brain to prefer sexual images over people (Wilson, 2015).
8. The more people watch pornography, the more their brains shrink, particularly in the areas responsible for motivation and decision-making (Kuhn & Gallinat, 2014).
9. Viewing porn slows down short-term memory (Laier et al, 2013).
10. Continued, addictive use of pornography, stimulates brain chemicals to tell the body to seek more extreme porn. (Eberstadt & Layden, 2010).

Does Porn Affect Religious Beliefs?

1. The more pornography that parents, particularly fathers, consume the less time they spend talking or reading about religion with their children. Thus, pornography may threaten the transmission of religious heritage from parents to children (Perry, 2015).
2. Porn use is increasing among adults in general, including among those who identify as Evangelical Christians. However, porn use has remained constant for the last 30 years for those Evangelicals who are most theologically conservative and faithful to their religious beliefs (Perry & Schleifer, 2018).
3. The more frequently men view pornography, the less committed they are to their religion. In addition, the more frequently men view pornography, the less likely they are to hold a leadership position in their congregation during the following 6 years (Perry, 2018).
4. The more religious men are, the less frequently they use pornography. And the less frequently they use pornography, the less likely they are to sexually harass women online (Hagen, Thompson, & Williams, 2018).
5. The more religious one's spouse is, the less they view pornography. The study author suggests that spousal religiosity may decrease pornography viewing among married Americans by promoting greater religious intimacy and unity between the couple, consequently decreasing one's interest or opportunities to view pornography (Perry, 2017).
6. The more men were motivated to be religious because it could help their social standing, the more they use pornography (Short et al., 2015).
7. The more men and women are motivated to be religious for selfless reasons, with a desire to have one's beliefs and behavior match, the less they view pornography (Foubert & Rizzo, 2013; Short et al., 2015).
8. The more boys and girls are integrated into their religious group, school, family, and community, the less they consume pornography (Mesch, 2009).

How Many Christian College Students Use Porn?

1. Among male students at Christian colleges, 14% viewed pornography monthly, an additional 20% viewed it at least weekly, and 5% more viewed it at least daily. Only 14% never saw pornography (Lastoria, 2011).
2. Only 3% of women on Christian college campuses view pornography monthly or more; 80% have never seen it (Lastoria, 2011).
3. The more that students at Christian colleges report their life is influenced by their religious beliefs, the less they view pornography. (Lastoria, 2011).
4. The more that men at evangelical Christian colleges access Internet pornography, the more guilt they experience about their use (Chelsen, 2011).
5. Men attending evangelical Christian colleges who do not personally identify as evangelical, look at pornography more hours each week than evangelical men (Chelsen, 2011).

Is Sexting Bad?

1. One in five sext messages are pictures of children 15 years old or younger; almost all of girls, almost all taken with a webcam (Internet Watch Foundation, 2015).

2. Sexters are 4.5 times more likely to have had unprotected sex, four times more likely to view pornography, and about 2.5 times more likely to chat online with people they don't know (Crimmins & Seigfried-Spellar, 2014).

How Much Money Do Pornographers Make?

1. Worldwide pornography revenues were \$100 billion annually (Ropelato, 2010). This is more than the combined revenues of Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo, Apple, and Netflix (DeKeseredy & Corsianos, 2016).
2. In the U.S., the porn industry makes \$13 billion annually. That is more than the National Football League, Major League Baseball, and the National Basketball Association combined (Ropelato, 2010).
3. Child pornography accounts for 20% of the profits in the pornography industry (U.S. House of Representatives, 2006).

Are Video Games Bad?

1. Online video games often objectify women and represent them in a stereotypically sexual way. Playing such games is associated with a greater likelihood of committing sexual violence (Burnay, et al., 2019).
2. Men who play sexual video games are more likely to support rape myths and are more likely to say that they would rape under certain circumstances (Guggisberg, 2020).
3. Sexually explicit video games have been shown to lead to sexual violence through imitation (Ivory, et al., 2017).

How Does Porn Affect Teenagers?

1. Initial studies show that the adolescent brain is more sensitive to sexually explicit material than adult brains (Brown & Wisco, 2019).
2. A review of 19 studies found that adolescents who view online pornography are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviors and to have anxiety or depression (Principi et al., 2019).
3. Among adolescents, pornography use increases with age, especially with boys. Adolescents who attend religious services frequently are less likely to view pornography (Rasmussen & Bierman, 2016).
4. Adolescents who use pornography are more likely to commit sexual violence (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016; Ybarra & Thompson, 2017).
5. Adolescents who use pornography are more likely to have disturbed family relationships (Peter & Valkenburg, 2016).
6. Males who report using pornography during adolescence followed by daily consumption of pornography often advance to viewing extreme content, including violence, to maintain arousal. Over time these men become less interested in physical intercourse as it is viewed as bland and uninteresting. Men then lose the ability to have sex with a real life partner. Some who give up pornography have successfully "re-booted" and regained their ability to have erections with a partner (Begovic, 2019).
7. Boys who view pornography are more likely to be involved in sexting—sending sexually explicit messages and images (Stanley et al., 2016).
8. Boys' regular viewing of pornography is associated with increased sexual coercion and abuse (Stanley et al., 2016).
9. In people aged 10-21, continuing exposure to violent pornography leads to sexual harassment, sexual assault, coercive sex, attempted rape, and rape (Ybarra & Thompson, 2017).
10. Adolescents using pornography report diminished life satisfaction (Willoughby, Young-Petersen, & Leonhardt, 2018).
11. Adolescents who view pornography become less religious over time (Alexandraki et al., 2018).
12. Adolescents who view pornography are more likely to have been sexually assaulted (Alexandraki et al., 2018).
13. Boys who regularly view pornography are more likely to perpetrate sexual assault (Alexandraki et al., 2018).
14. The more frequently adolescents view pornography, the more likely they are to attend religious services less frequently, the less importance their faith is to them, the less frequently they pray and feel close to God and the more religious doubts they have (Alexandraki et al., 2018).
15. Adolescents who are more attached to religious leaders have lower levels of pornography consumption (Alexandraki et al., 2018).
16. Adolescents who view pornography frequently are also more likely to have relationship problems with their peers (Alexandraki, et al., 2018).
17. Boys who use pornography frequently are more likely to be overweight or obese (Alexandraki et al., 2018).
18. Adolescents who use pornography frequently have worse relationships with their parents, lower commitment to their family, believe their parents care less about them, and communicate less with their parents (Alexandraki et al., 2018).
19. Adolescents who view pornography are more likely to begin sexual activity at an earlier age. This early onset of sexual activity is due to more permissive attitudes toward casual sex that are directly linked to their pornography use (Van Oosten, Jochen, & Vandenbosch, 2017).
20. Asking adolescents if they use pornography has no effect on whether or not they will actually access pornography in the future (Koletic, Cohen, Stulhofer, & Kohut, 2019).

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2025 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

SCR 4017

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4017
4/8/2025
Conference Committee

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying whether pornography is a public health hazard.

4:00 p.m. Chair Myrdal opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chair Myrdal, Senators: Castaneda and Braunberger and Representatives: Schreiber-Beck, Morton, and Hager.

Discussion Topics:

- Public health terminology
- State versus federal jurisdiction
- Existing initiatives on pornography

4:00 p.m. Legislators discussed resolution terminology, questioning public health crisis versus hazard in relation to pornography.

4:06 p.m. Representative Schreiber-Beck submitted testimony #44809, #44810, #44811, #44812, #44813, #44814, #44815, and #44816 to show existing evidence did not support categorizing pornography as a public health hazard.

4:10 p.m. Legislators questioned converting the resolution into a study, arguing for decisive local action on pornography.

4:20 p.m. Legislators proposed local research on pornography's impacts and planned a follow-up meeting for further action.

4:27 p.m. Chair Myrdal adjourned.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

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Claiming Public Health Crisis to Regulate Sexual Outlets: A Critique of the State of Utah's Declaration on Pornography

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In constitutional democratic societies such as the U.S., elected officials in local, state, and federal governments theoretically

represent the values of their constituencies. As elected officials, they are entrusted to provide leadership with the responsibility to generate public policy that will protect the rights and welfare of the people that they represent. This basic mandate is challenged, when elected officials generate policies based on moral values that do not necessarily represent those of their constituencies. In this Commentary, we will discuss the potential cultural and psychosocial impacts of the 2016 decision by the State of Utah's government to declare pornography a public health crisis.

Brief Historical Perspective

The history of governmental involvement in the management of sexuality through public health has been well documented by sexuality research historians (Foucault, 1990; Macleod & Durrheim, 2002; McKee, 2009; Weeks, 2002, 2017). The American Public Health Association (2020) defines public health as promoting and protecting the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work, and play; using research to identify risks of disease and injury; and acting to prevent them before they occur. In broad terms, the public health mandate is to understand the relationship between the spread of communicable, infectious diseases, and how the environmental conditions and personal choices affect the mechanisms by which they are transmitted (Walker, 1989). Evidence-based public health policy, multi-level approaches, and community mobilization have facilitated the control of several communicable diseases and health conditions (APHA, 2020; Brownson, Baker, Deshpande, & Gillespie, 2017). However, public health has also been used as a tool to further political agendas with limited concern for the control of disease.

Authoritarian, morality-based public health policies not based on evidence, such as the United States Adolescent Family Life Act (AFLA), Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE), and Title V, Section 510 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, became the foundation for the U.S. federal government to require abstinence only until marriage educational programs to the states in order to receive federal funding for sexuality education. The AFLA was not effective, and it caused unnecessary harms, behavioral risks, outbreaks of sexually transmitted infections, and psychological harms to young people nationwide (Lerner & Hawkins, [2016](#); Santelli, [2017](#); Santelli et al., [2017](#); Smith, Panisch, Malespin, & Pereira, [2017](#)).

Our current understanding of the management of communicable diseases as well as non-communicable conditions, such as diabetes, cardiac disease, and substance use disorders, is strongly rooted in evidence-based, scientific practices designed to increase the health and well-being of the populations served by our local, state, and federal governments (Brownson et al., [2017](#)). Thus, when the outbreak, spread, and/or lethality of communicable or non-communicable disease merits government intervention to protect the population, it is declared a public health crisis (e.g., the 2017 declaration of the opioid epidemic as a public health crisis or the 2020 public health crisis declaration of COVID-19) (HHS, [2019](#); White House United States of America, [2019](#), [2020](#)). A public health crisis grants access to federal and state funding to address the declared issue through increased governmental actions including but not limited to law-enforcement, education, and healthcare services.


Pornography Does Not Meet the Definition of a Public Health Crisis

The consumption of pornography, broadly defined as watching pornography and/or using pornography for self-sexual stimulation or masturbation, does not meet the definition of a communicable disease, i.e., the frequency of pornography usage cannot be transmitted through vectors, person-to-person or through environmental conditions such as influenza, dengue fever or chlamydia (Brownson et al., 2017). Pornography is also not a non-communicable condition. Chronic or acute non-communicable conditions can lead to health impairment, sudden death, and/or premature mortality (Brownson et al., 2017). Pornography use is not inherently addictive, with most users reporting no negative consequences, distress, or functional impairment (Hald & Malamuth, 2008; McKee, Byron, Litsou, & Ingham, 2020; Vaillancourt-Morel & Bergeron, 2019; Vaillancourt-Morel et al., 2017; Willoughby, Busby, & Young-Petersen, 2019; Willoughby, Carroll, Busby, & Brown, 2016).

From a governmentality perspective, pornography in a sense is in the realm of the laws that regulate civism and human conduct. Pornography eludes a standardized definitive definition due to its highly subjective nature and has been a point of controversy for decades (McKee et al., 2020). Definitional interplay with artistic expressions protected by the U.S. First Amendment make legislation restricting the sale and consumption of pornography a legal matter (Hudson Jr., 2019). Individual perspectives about the moral values attached to sexually explicit material further complicate how policymakers and courts regulate the marketing and consumption of pornography. Some legal standings, however, have been drawn.

In the 1982 US Supreme Court decision in *New York versus Ferber*, it was determined that the First Amendment provides no protection against consumption of sexually explicit depictions of minors (Case Law Studies, 1982). Since then, numerous laws have been approved that further restrict the distribution and ownership of sexually explicit material depicting minors (Hudson Jr., 2019). Beyond age as a legal standing for regulation of distribution and consumption of sexually explicit material, no other parameter exists. The nude adult human body is not in and of itself considered obscene by legal standards as per the 1974 US Supreme Court ruling *Jenkins versus Georgia*, but where that line is drawn still remains strongly subjective (Case Law Studies, 1974).

Declaring Pornography as a Public Health Crisis

On April 19, 2016, the State of Utah's Governor Gary Herbert signed resolutions S.C.R. 9 and H.B. 155. Resolution H.B. 155 focuses on the surveillance of what Utah state laws consider criminal behavior, thus reinforcing our perspective that the state's concern with pornography is in the realm of the law. H.B. 155 Reporting of Child Pornography focuses solely on reporting instances of child pornography. In summary, it requires computer technicians who find child pornography while working to report it to law enforcement or the federal Cyber Tip Line for child pornography. The full resolution is available at: <https://le.utah.gov/~2016/bills/static/HB0155.html> .

S.C.R. 9 Concurrent Resolution on the Public Health Crisis says pornography is a public health hazard leading to a “broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms” and that the “pornography epidemic is harming the

citizens of Utah and the nation.” It also states that the use of pornography “can impact brain development and functioning, contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape deviant sexual arousal, and lead to difficulty in forming or maintaining intimate relationships,” and that it “normalizes violence and abuse of women and children.” The full resolution is available at: <https://le.utah.gov/~2016/bills/static/SCR009.html>.

During the press conference after the signing of the S.C.R. 9 resolution, next to Utah’s Governor Gary Herbert, Clay Olsen wore a t-shirt that said: “Porn Kills Love.” Mr. Olsen is the co-founder and owner of the organization named “Fight The New Drug” referring to pornography (FightTheNewDrug, 2016). Different from H.B. 155, resolution S.C.R. 9 uses a public health platform to equate the consumption of pornography to the consumption of drugs, chemical dependence, and/or substance use disorders. It further points at pornography as the predictor of the social normalization of violence against women and gender-based sexual violence. Resolution S.C.R.9 is an authoritarian, morality-driven, not-evidence-based public health policy similar to the U.S. federal Abstinence Only education policy.

“Pornography addiction” is not a non-communicable, medical condition identified by the American Psychiatric Association, American Medical Association or the International Classification of Diseases (American Psychiatric Association, 2020; WHO, 2019). The American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT) has weighed in on the issue, stating: “AASECT: (1) does not find sufficient empirical evidence to support the classification of sex addiction or pornography addiction as a mental health disorder, and (2)

does not find the sexual addiction training and treatment methods and educational pedagogies to be adequately informed by accurate human sexuality knowledge” (Singal, 2016).

Similar to the Abstinence Only Education policy, Utah State’s resolution S.C.R. 9 is likely to create unnecessary psychosocial distress around a non-existent diagnosis to adults within their legal rights to consume pornography. Individuals who legally consume pornography in the state of Utah are now subject to potential interpersonal stigmatization, the internalization of sex-negativity, and sexual shaming, all of which have been demonstrated to predict low-self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and substance use. This crisis-based language to public policy reinforces a moralistic approach to the consumption of pornography under the auspices of an otherwise scientifically credible public health authority, and is indicative of a regression to an earlier state of disease management that has been dissuaded by federal and state governments since it began adopting empirically based management approaches in the late 1800s. Because this declaration is not based on evidence, it creates a non-existent public health problem, “pornography addiction,” de facto manufacturing a disease in the population in a way that is antithetical to the government’s responsibility toward protecting the health of the people.

While the language of public health has been adopted by Utah’s Governor Herbert to espouse the perceived dangers of pornography consumption, either in its 2017–2020 Strategic Plan, or in its 111 pages 2017–2020 Health Improvement Plan, the Utah State Department of Health makes no mention of addressing pornography consumption as a priority (Miner, 2017; Utah Department of Health, 2018). This disconnect

between Governor Herbert and the actual Department of Health may be representative of simple latency between the generation and enactment of public policy. However, the almost three year gap between the governor's office and the state health department may suggest other motives outside the protection of the health of the people of Utah for resolution S.C.R. 9.

A study carried out in 2009 by the Harvard Business School showed that the state of Utah had the highest number of online adult entertainment subscriptions, per-capita, in the U.S. (Edelman, 2009). Prior to the S.C.R. 9 resolution and after the signing, there have been numerous mental health and psychological services offered to individuals and couples affected by pornography in the state of Utah. These services are provided by professional and non-professionally trained providers. For example, using the searching in *Psychology Today*, we identified 477 professional providers in the Salt Lake City metropolitan area of Utah, under the search term "pornography addiction" (PsychologyToday, 2020). The focus of this Commentary is not to criticize our colleagues in mental health services treating addictions or compulsive behaviors but rather the government's use of public health to legitimize non-existent medical conditions without even providing evidence-based treatment protocols.

Adding to the Confusion: Forthcoming 6C72 Compulsive Sexual Behavior Disorder

The vast majority of the disorders defined by the DSM-5 require not merely the presence of symptoms but the additional criteria of distress and/or impairment experienced by the individual

(American Psychiatric Association, 2020). The World Health Organization agrees that marked distress must be present for the diagnosis of compulsive sexual behavior (WHO, 2019). The statement further clarifies that “distress that is entirely related to moral judgments and disapproval about sexual impulses, urges, or behaviors is not sufficient to meet this requirement.” WHO’s forthcoming compulsive sexual behavior disorder states that pornography is just one potential aspect of sexual compulsivity.

Vaillancourt-Morel and Bergeron (2019) stated that compulsive sexual behavior disorder could include pornography under the ICD-11 consideration by the WHO, but only when viewing pornography is objectively intense, repetitive, and a source of distress or functional impairment. The challenge in this position is the variability in defining what “objectively intense and repetitive” criteria are. We agree with Vaillancourt-Morel and Bergeron (2019) that “without objective indicators of self-perceived problematic pornography, the risk of pathologizing some sexual desires or fantasies without understanding and addressing the underlying context and issues is high” (p. 438). When pornography is declared as a devastating, health harming behavior, then there is a collective risk of pathologizing perfectly normal experiences. For example, when a 15-year-old youth who has not had a conversation about sex with one’s parents and gets sent to a therapist because the youth was caught looking at pornography by the parent/s can cause unnecessary psychological distress to the youth.

Our interpretation of the WHO statement on pornography is not that the frequency of watching pornography itself causes psychological harm or dependence but rather when the

behavior causes distress or impairment, such as the case for someone who jeopardizes their job by watching pornography during their lunch hour at work knowing that this behavior is in violation of the person's work policy. It is for someone who has a compulsion or impulses that are interfering with their daily life. The problem with these public health declarations is that it is a blanket statement that all pornography is detrimental, including the person who looks at it once a week at home.

The lack of linkages between Governor Herbert's use of the language of public health and Utah's State Department of Health leaves room for the question: Under what public health authority, for whom, and with what guidance has Governor Herbert pioneered his opposition to pornography? Uncovering the answer to this question is vitally important because the legitimization of "pornography addiction" and declaring pornography a public health crisis burden the mental health care system with additional patients with non-existent conditions. For example, if the emphasis of resolution S.C.R. 9 is to address the culture of violence against women, why not declare violence against women a public health crisis? S.R.C.9 might potentially deviate future state-level mental health treatment resources from sex, family, and relationship professional therapists dealing with the treatment of well-documented clinical and social problems affecting their patient populations.

Implications

Since 2016, 14 other states have made similar declarations of crisis following Utah's original denouncement of pornography (Coalition, 2019). While there is no clarity on the legal standing

of resolution S.C.R. 9, nor are there funding provisions attached to these resolutions, the proliferation of restricting pornography policies seems motivated by political motives for state elections, re-elections, and/or the increase in pseudoscience organizations interested in profiting from pathologizing sexual expressions and sexual outlets.

Using the public health crisis claim to regulate pornography usage is conceptually inappropriate. The role of public health efforts should not be to stigmatize populations and create further stressors and distract from priority public health issues. While there is no doubt that the intentions behind said public policy are born from compassion, it is deeply important that this issue is tempered with evidence-based, empirical, scientific inquiry into the effects of pornography consumption.

Even if the perceived dangers of pornography stated in policies such as S.C.R. 9 (spousal conflict, sexual communication issues, divorce, relationship satisfaction, and so on) are at the core of these resolutions, pornography addiction, as defined in those statements, is not likely the cause. We reiterate that rather than creating distracting public health crisis resolutions, proclamations for investments in increasing access and equity to evidence-based mental health treatment and care services are bound to have sustainable, positive effects in the quality of life, sexual health, and mental health of individuals and families. Perhaps, for now, we should be reserving announcements about public health for the public health authorities.

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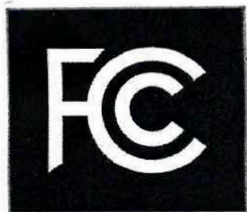
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Consumer Guide

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. CIPA imposes certain requirements on schools or libraries that receive discounts for Internet access or internal connections through the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications services and products more affordable for eligible schools and libraries. In early 2001, the FCC issued rules implementing CIPA and provided updates to those rules in 2011.

What CIPA requires

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy that includes technology protection measures. The protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors (for computers that are accessed by minors). Before adopting this Internet safety policy, schools and libraries must provide reasonable notice and hold at least one public hearing or meeting to address the proposal.

Schools subject to CIPA have two additional certification requirements: 1) their Internet safety policies must include monitoring the online activities of minors; and 2) as required by the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, they must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response.

Schools and libraries subject to CIPA are required to adopt and implement an Internet safety policy addressing:

- Access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet;
- The safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- Unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities by minors online;
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; and
- Measures restricting minors' access to materials harmful to them.

Schools and libraries must certify they are in compliance with CIPA before they can receive E-rate funding.

- CIPA does not apply to schools and libraries receiving discounts only for telecommunications service only;
- An authorized person may disable the blocking or filtering measure during use by an adult to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
- CIPA does not require the tracking of Internet use by minors or adults.

You can find out more about CIPA or apply for E-rate funding by contacting the Universal Service Administrative Company's (USAC) Schools and Libraries Division (SLD) at sl.universalservice.org. SLD



also operates a client service bureau to answer questions at 1-888-203-8100 or via email through the SLD website.

Filing a complaint

You have multiple options for filing a complaint with the FCC:

- File a complaint online at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov>
- By phone: 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322); TTY: 1-888-TELL-FCC (1-888-835-5322); ASL: 1-844-432-2275
- By mail (please include your name, address, contact information and as much detail about your complaint as possible):

Federal Communications Commission
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Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

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Overview

The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program (ICAC) helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children. This help encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education.

The program was developed in 1998, in response to an ever-increasing number of children and teenagers using the Internet, an ever-increasing number of online images depicting child sexual abuse, and an ever-increasing amount of online activity by people seeking to contact and exploit children and teens.

ICAC Task Forces have helped state and local law enforcement agencies to conduct approximately 184,700 investigations, which led to the arrest of more than 10,800 offenders in FY 2023. The ICAC program works with approximately 5,500 law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies and in FY 2023, the ICAC task forces conducted nearly 3,050 regional law enforcement trainings on child exploitation. Approximately 72,300 law enforcement officers, prosecutors and other professionals attended these trainings to learn cutting-edge techniques to investigate and prosecute ICAC-related cases.

Programs and Funding

In FY 2023, funding for the ICAC program totaled \$40.8 million to support ICAC Task Forces and training and technical assistance. ICAC Task Force Program funding is supported under the Missing and Exploited Children appropriation included in the Department of Justice fiscal year appropriation.

Funding History

- **Fiscal Year 2023—\$40.8 million**
- **Fiscal Year 2022—\$31.2 million**
- **Fiscal Year 2021—\$34.68 million**
- **Fiscal Year 2020—\$34.73 million**

Training and Technical Assistance

The ICAC Training and Technical Assistance Program was established to provide ICAC Task Forces and their affiliates with the training and technical assistance they need to conduct effective investigations and prosecutions. Training providers include the following:

- SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, provides training related to social networking sites, peer to peer file sharing, wireless networks, and cell phone

technology for law enforcement, prosecutors and allied professionals.

- The National White Collar Crime Center provides training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and other stakeholders in the ICAC program to improve investigative, prosecutorial, and forensic capabilities; create and distribute guidelines, best practices, and investigative methodologies; and coordinate meetings with grantees and practitioners.
- The Innocent Justice Foundation provides a comprehensive mental health and wellness program for ICAC task forces to address negative effects and trauma for individuals exposed to child sexual abuse images through their work.
- Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) provides training focused on investigative techniques and best practices for undercover operations to combat Internet crimes against children and site-specific technical assistance to ICAC Task Forces.
- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children[®] facilitates training to law enforcement; prosecutors; and criminal- and juvenile-justice, child-serving, and healthcare professionals on issues related to missing and exploited children.

Contacts

Visit the [ICAC Task Force Contact Information](#) section of the ICAC Task Force Program website for state-specific contacts and websites.

Resources

OJJDP Publications

AMBER Alert Field Guide for Law Enforcement Officers

May 2019. The purpose of this guide is to provide law enforcement officers with information that will enable them to avoid or mitigate critical “pitfalls” when working a child abduction case. 37 pages. NCJ 252795.

[PDF](#)

Protecting Children in Cyberspace: The ICAC Task Force Program

Bulletin, January 2002. Discusses efforts by OJJDP's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program that address emerging online threats, such as computer-facilitated sex crimes, directed at children and teenagers. 8 pages. NCJ 191213.

[PDF](#) (204 KB) | [HTML](#)

Protecting Children Online: Using Research-Based Algorithms to Prioritize Law Enforcement Internet Investigations, Technical Report

OJJDP-Sponsored, May 2016. This project used data from 20 Internet Crimes Against Children task forces to develop empirically-based recommendations to assist law enforcement conducting Internet investigations. 54 pages. NCJ 250154.

[PDF](#)

Review of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program: Interim Report to the Attorney General Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011

This interim report features data covering fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and is intended to provide a summary of the ICAC program's statistical accomplishments. 76 pages.

[PDF](#)

A National Evaluation of Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Training, Final Report

June 2023. This report presents an assessment of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program by the National Evaluation of ICAC Task Force Training through the ICAC Training and Technical Assistance (TTA) Program. 17 pages [PDF](#)

National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction Report to Congress

August 2010. In complying with the provisions of the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, the U.S. Justice Department presents this second report to Congress on a National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction, which is the culmination

of a year of discussions among members of an interagency working group convened by the National Coordinator for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction at the Justice Department. 166 pages.
[PDF](#)

Related Websites [↗](#)

[Project Safe Childhood](#)

Project Safe Childhood combats the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children.



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An official website of the United States government. [Here's how you know](#)

Child Exploitation Notification Program

Report Child Exploitation

If you or someone else is in immediate danger, call 911.

- Contact the FBI online at tips.fbi.gov.
- Contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Cyber Tipline at [report.cybertip](https://report.cybertip.org).

About the Child Exploitation Notification Program (CENP)

As a part of the FBI's Victim Services Division, the Child Exploitation Notification Program (CENP) marks victims of distributed child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Since these crimes are investigated by many agencies, the CENP partners with numerous federal agencies and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to ensure victims receive notifications related to CSAM images.

When a criminal creates CSAM, the victim may experience ongoing trauma when the images are shared. Federal law enforcement and prosecutors are required to notify victims each time a federal case is opened, created, traded, received, or possessed this material. The CENP uses the U.S. Department of Justice to notify victims and ensure victims are aware of the rights and services to which they may be entitled.

(Note: The CENP was formerly known as the Child Pornography Victim Assistance [CPVA] Program.)

Child Sexual Abuse Material Victim Notification

The amount and frequency of notifications can be overwhelming, especially as victims may have difficulty coping with the impact of the crime and its ongoing aftermath. As a victim (or parent/guardian of a victim), you have control over notifications sent by the Victim Notification System. You can determine if and how you receive notifications.

Child
If you
cas

Parents and/or guardians will determine notifications for their minor children. Once a minor victim turns 18, they have the right to be notified directly and/or may provide written consent for someone else to receive notifications on their behalf.

-
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Resources for Victims

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Resources

- **Coping with Child Sexual Abuse Material Exposure** (PDF)
- **Resources for Child Exploitation Survivors and Their Families**
- **You Are Not Alone Brochure** (PDF)

- **Team HOPE**

Volunteers are family members of children who were once missing or have been sexually exploited. Volunteers are also adults who were missing or sexually exploited as children. With this knowledge and experience, they are able to offer peer and emotional support to those impacted by a missing or sexually exploited child case.

- Visit missingkids.org/TeamHOPE
- Call 1-866-305-HOPE (1-866-305-4673)

- **Family Advocacy Division**

NCMEC's masters-level trained advocates work to strengthen survivors and families by offering telephonic support when planning for prevention or managing a difficult situation. This family-centered approach helps create a collaborative environment to assist victims and families identify areas of need and find the right community-based resources to assist with healing and reconnecting.

- Call 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-394-2255)
- Visit missingkids.org/support

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Porn Addiction Treatment in Fargo, North Dakota

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Fargo, North Dakota

Porn and Sex Addiction Resources in Fargo, North Dakota

Fargo, North Dakota, provides a variety of resources for individuals struggling with porn and sex addiction. These resources range from government-subsidized programs to private rehabilitation centers that offer comprehensive treatment plans. They are designed to provide the information, support, and tools needed to overcome addiction, restore personal stability, and improve overall wellbeing.

Government Resources and Subsidies

The North Dakota Department of Human Services provides mental health services that may include treatment for sex and pornography addiction. Conventional mental health services like counseling and therapy are usually covered under insurance, with Medicaid providing coverage for low-income individuals. Addressing sex or porn addiction might be

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ShareHouse: ShareHouse is a nationally recognized leader in providing addiction treatment. They offer residential and outpatient programs that can address sex addiction. The facility bases their treatment plan on a person-centered approach that acknowledges the unique experience of each individual.

Self-Help and Support Groups

Local support groups like Sex Addicts Anonymous offer safe spaces for sex and porn addicts to share their experiences and support one another's recovery. Fargo has local chapters that meet weekly.

Health Information

Sex and porn addiction is considered a mental health disorder that's usually linked with other underlying issues like anxiety, depression, or stress. Treating the addiction requires addressing these co-occurring disorders concurrently.

Remember, seeking help is the first step toward recovery. Feel free to reach out to the above resources if you or a loved one is struggling with sex or porn addiction.

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Stacey Benson

Fargo, ND (701) 595-5127

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does North Dakota have programs on pornography?



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Yes, North Dakota has programs focused on combating child sexual exploitation and pornography, including the [North Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force \(NDICAC\)](#) and the [Project Safe Childhood](#) initiative.

District of North Dakota | Programs - Department of Justice

Jan 29, 2015 — ... sexual exploitation crimes against children. The threat of sexual

Department of Justice

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program | North Dakota National Guard

North Dakota National Guard

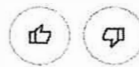
Sex Education in North Dakota

Reach One Teach One (ROTO), a ten-session class that gives young people an opportunity

Planned Parenthood Action Fund

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31:8 Project
<https://www.318project.org/pornography>

North Dakota Human Trafficking Education - Bismarck

Raised on Porn exposes the ways pornography has become the new sex education for children and unpacks the dangerous lifelong implications of this global ...

Kindbridge Behavioral Health
<https://kindbridge.com/porn-addiction-therapy/north-...>

Pornography Addiction Treatment and Therapy North Dakota

Brief Background of Pornography in North Dakota. Is Porn Legal in North Dakota? Pornography is legal for sale, distribution, and viewing in North Dakota. As ...

People also ask

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Facebook · North Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
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North Dakota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

Take It Down. Having nudes online is scary, but there is hope to get it taken down. Since 2019, reports of online child exploitation and sextortion have near..



mensaddictions.com

<https://www.mensaddictions.com> · city · nd-fargo



Porn Addiction Treatment in Fargo, North Dakota

The North Dakota Department of Human Services provides mental health services that may include treatment for sex and pornography addiction. Conventional mental ...



Department of Justice (.gov)

<https://www.justice.gov> · usao-nd · programs



District of North Dakota | Programs

Jan 29, 2015 — ... pornography is equally dramatic and disturbing. Project Safe Neighborhoods Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide commitment to ...



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Sex Education in North Dakota

Programs offered in North Dakota include: Reach One Teach One (ROTO), a ten-session class that gives young people an opportunity to learn about real-life ...

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Department of Justice (.gov)

<https://www.justice.gov> · usao-nd · project-safe-childh...



District of North Dakota | Project Safe Childhood

Aug 15, 2016 — Child pornography makes up the bulk of child exploitation cases prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of North ...



North Dakota National Guard (.gov)

<https://www.ndguard.nd.gov> · sexual-assault-prevention...



Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program

A comprehensive policy and program that focuses on awareness, prevention, education, and victim advocacy for service members and their adult dependents.

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STAND - Sex Offender Treatment

<https://standnorthdakota.com>



STAND - Sex Offender Treatment: Home

STAND is a non-profit organization committed to the improved safety of North Dakota communities through the provision of high-quality, evidence- based ...

Contact · Our Team · About S.T.A.N.D. · Press Releases

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Youthworks of North Dakota

<https://youthworksnd.org> · program is



Programs – Youthworks of North Dakota

Immediate referrals to emergency housing is available. The goal is to reduce the risks associated with sexual exploitation, abuse and other problem behaviors.

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are there any federal programs addressing pornography?



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Yes, the federal government has programs addressing pornography, particularly child sexual exploitation and abuse, including the [Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program \(ICAC\)](#), [Project Safe Childhood](#), and the FBI's [Child Exploitation Notification Program \(CENP\)](#).

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Jul 5, 2024 — The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about
Federal Communications Commission

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program | Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

Child Exploitation Notification Program — FBI

FBI

Project Safe Childhood | Project Safe Childhood

Department of Justice

Generative AI is experimental.



Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (.gov)

<https://ojdp.ojp.gov/programs/internet-crimes-againis...>

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program

The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program (ICAC) helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology- ...



Mirror Ministries

<https://www.mirror-ministries.org/what-we-do/addressing-pornography-...>

Addressing Pornography : Awareness : What We Do

Addressing pornography · FTND's Fortify Program · Covenant Eyes Accountability and Internet Filtering · Resource List from National Center on Sexual Exploitation ...



NCOSE

<https://endsexualexploitation.org/articles/promoting-pornography-free-schools-...>

Promoting Pornography-free Schools: The Role of the US ...

Sep 11, 2020 — CIPA was enacted by Congress to stem children's access to harmful content over the Internet (including pornography). In order for public schools ...



Federal Communications Commission (.gov)

<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act-...>

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

Jul 5, 2024 — The protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors ...



Department of Justice (.gov)
https://www.justice.gov/psc

Project Safe Childhood

Project Safe Childhood is a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department ...
Press Room · About Project Safe Childhood · PSC Fact Sheets



Women's Congressional Policy Institute
https://www.wcpinst.org/source/senate-hearing-focu...

Senate Hearing Focuses on Internet Pornography

Jan 19, 2025 — On January 19, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation held a hearing on protecting children from Internet pornography.

People also ask

What does the ICAC do?



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nationalsecuritylawfirm.com
https://www.nationalsecuritylawfirm.com/pornograph...

Pornography, Sexual Behavior, and Your Security Clearance

Jul 18, 2024 — Understand how pornography impacts security clearances. Learn guidelines and implications for national security and personal conduct.



FBI.gov
https://www.fbi.gov/victim-services/cenp

Child Exploitation Notification Program

The CPVA program was established to ensure that victims of child sexual abuse material and their guardians can exercise their rights each time their images ...
Child Exploitation... · Report Child Exploitation · Changing Your Contact...
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Office of Justice Programs (.gov)
https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts

Guide to the Federal Government's Response ...

This booklet reviews provisions of Canada's existing Federal Code pertaining to child sexual abuse, juvenile prostitution, and pornography, and it outlines ...



Law Office of John L. Calcagni, III
https://www.calcagnilaw.com/.../Child Pornography

Federal Law on Child Pornography

Congress first passed legislation against child pornography with the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act of 1977. In the years that followed, ...

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
Internet Crimes Against children training 

How to report Internet Crimes against children 

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In 2016, Utah was the first state to declare pornography a public health hazard, and since then, measures have been passed in 11 other states, though these measures are typically non-binding resolutions, not laws.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

Utah (2016):

Utah became the first state to declare pornography a public health hazard, with its resolution stating that pornography is a public health hazard leading to a "broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms".

Other States:

Since 2016, 11 other states have introduced non-binding resolutions declaring pornography a public health crisis, citing concerns ranging from addiction to infidelity to sex trafficking.

Nature of Resolutions:

These resolutions are typically non-binding, meaning they don't have the force of law and don't ban pornography or impose penalties.

States that have introduced resolutions:

Arizona, [according to CNN](#)

Generative AI is experimental.

Utah Declares Porn A Public Health Hazard : The Two-Way

Apr 20, 2016 — On Tuesday, the state of Utah officially declared a new public health

NPR

Utah declares porn a public health hazard - BBC News

Apr 19, 2016 — The US state of Utah has become the first to declare pornography a

BBC

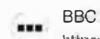
Pornography Is Not a 'Public Health Crisis' - Boston University

Jan 9, 2020 — Pornography Is Not a 'Public Health Crisis' | SPH. ... Since 2016, 17 states

Boston University

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The US state of **Utah** has become the first to declare pornography a public health risk in a move its governor says is to "protect our families and our young people". The bill does not ban pornography in the mainly Mormon state. However, it calls for greater "efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction". Apr 19, 2016



<https://www.bbc.com/world-us-canada-36058194>

Utah declares porn a public health hazard - BBC News

About featured snippets · Feedback



The Greenville Advocate

<https://www.greenvilleadvocate.com/2023/03/29/alab...>

Alabama to declare pornography a public health crisis

Mar 29, 2023 — The Alabama Senate unanimously passed a resolution recently to declare pornography a public health crisis.



Governing

<https://www.governing.com/archive/gov-pornograp...>

Is Porn a Public Health Crisis? 16 States Say Yes.

Jul 17, 2019 — Is Porn a Public Health Crisis? 16 States Say Yes. In just three years, more than a dozen states have passed resolutions declaring pornography a ...

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AP News

<https://apnews.com/article>

A growing number of states call porn a public health crisis

May 9, 2019 — PHOENIX (AP) — More than a dozen states have moved to declare pornography ... A growing number of states call porn a public health crisis.

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NPR

<https://www.npr.org/thetwo-way/2016/04/20/utah...>

Utah Declares Porn A Public Health Hazard : The Two-Way

Apr 20, 2016 — On Tuesday, the state of Utah officially declared a new public health crisis: pornography. ... Declaring porn a public health hazard has no ...

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Baptist Press

<https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news>

Porn deemed public health crisis, harmful in 5 states

Jay Dennis, founder of the One Million Men anti-pornography ministry, told Baptist Press the measures are a valuable victory in communicating porn's harm. "The ...



CNN

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/09/arizona-porn-pub...>

Arizona considers calling porn a public health crisis

Feb 9, 2019 — Gary Herbert signs resolution calling porn a 'health hazard'. Utah was the first state in the nation to declare pornography a public health ...



Boston University

<https://www.bu.edu/sph/news/articles/pornograp...>

Pornography Is Not a 'Public Health Crisis' | SPH

Jan 9, 2020 — 17 states have introduced nonbinding resolutions declaring pornography a public health crisis, citing a range of concerns ranging from addictiveness to ...



National Institutes of Health (NIH) (.gov)

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7703733>

Claiming Public Health Crisis to Regulate Sexual Outlets

by K McKay · 2020 · Cited by 10 — ... State of Utah's government to declare pornography a public health crisis. ... state's concern with pornography is in the realm of the law.



NBC News

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/utah-gov...>

Utah Governor Gary Herbert Declares Pornography a ...

Apr 19, 2016 — "Pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic environment," the resolution states. ... In Utah, porn is now a "public health crisis." Gov. Gary ...



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2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Judiciary Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4017
4/14/2025
Conference Committee

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying whether pornography is a public health hazard.

3:04 p.m. Chair Myrdal opened the meeting.

Members present:

Chair Myrdal, Senators: Castaneda and Braunberger and Representatives: Schreiber-Beck, Morton, and Hager.

Discussion Topics:

- Impacts of pornography
- Education and prevention efforts

3:05 p.m. Chair Myrdal introduced proposed amendment LC# 25.3041.01003 and submitted testimony #44976.

3:10 p.m. Senator Castaneda moved amendment LC# 25.3041.01003.

3:10 p.m. Representative Morton seconded.

3:10 p.m. Roll Call Vote - Motion Passed 6-0-0.

3:11 p.m. Senator Braunberger moved amendment LC# 25.3041.01003 in place of House amendments LC# 25.3041.01001.

3:11 p.m. Representative Morton seconded the motion.

3:11 p.m. Roll Call Vote - Motion Passed 6-0-0.

3:11 p.m. Representative Morton will carry the bill.

3:11 p.m. Senator Braunberger will carry the bill.

3:13 p.m. Chair Myrdal adjourned.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017

Introduced by

Senators Enget, Hogan, Hogue, Klein, Mathern

In place of amendment (25.3041.01001) adopted by the House, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4017 is amended by amendment (25.3041.01003) as follows:

- 1 A concurrent resolution ~~recognizing pornography as a public health hazard~~ directing the
- 2 Legislative Management to consider studying the detrimental impacts of pornography.
- 3 ~~— WHEREAS, each day, countless people are exposed to sexually explicit content through a~~
- 4 ~~wide range of media, and these consumers often are unaware of the health risks posed by such~~
- 5 ~~material; and~~
- 6 ~~— WHEREAS, children are encountering pornography before their teens, and this early~~
- 7 ~~exposure may lead to low self-esteem and body image disorders and an increased desire to~~
- 8 ~~engage in risky sexual behavior; and~~
- 9 ~~— WHEREAS, in addition to promoting unhealthy sexual expectations, the adult entertainment~~
- 10 ~~industry produces media that objectifies women and children, as well as depicts rape and~~
- 11 ~~abuse; by associating violence with sexual gratification, these materials perpetuate the demand~~
- 12 ~~for sex trafficking, prostitution, child pornography, and sexual abuse images; and~~
- 13 ~~— WHEREAS, pornography has been linked to detrimental health effects, including brain~~
- 14 ~~development complications, emotional and medical afflictions, the inability to form and maintain~~
- 15 ~~intimate relationships, and sexual addiction; these dangers not only affect people on an~~
- 16 ~~individual level but also contribute to the degradation of the family unit, frequently leading to~~
- 17 ~~marital dissatisfaction and infidelity; and~~
- 18 ~~— WHEREAS, the ubiquity of pornography has resulted in a host of societal problems and~~
- 19 ~~potentially negative health effects, and it is of paramount importance that our leaders address~~
- 20 ~~this critical public health issue;~~

1 WHEREAS, sexually explicit content is widely available and consumers often are unaware
2 of the risk posed by such material; and

3 WHEREAS, children may be exposed to pornography and early exposure may lead to low
4 self-esteem, body image disorders, unhealthy sexual expectations, and the association of
5 violence with sexual gratification; and

6 WHEREAS, the adult entertainment industry produces media that objectifies women and
7 children, and depicts rape and abuse, perpetuating the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution,
8 child pornography, and sexual abuse images; and

9 WHEREAS, pornography has been linked to detrimental effects and societal problems, and
10 it is of paramount importance that our leaders address this issue;

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
12 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

13 ~~— That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly hereby recognize pornography as a public health~~
14 ~~hazard, and recognize the need for education, prevention, research, and policy changes to~~
15 ~~address the harmful influence and consequences of pornography; and~~

16 ~~— **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution~~
17 ~~to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and the Attorney~~
18 ~~General.~~

19 That the Legislative Management consider studying the detrimental impacts of
20 pornography; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the study analyze the current efforts for education,
22 prevention, and research related to the consequences of pornography, examine potential policy
23 changes, and include input from the relevant state agencies and other stakeholders; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
25 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
26 the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

SCR 4017 041425 1511 PM Roll Call Vote

Amendment

SCR 4017

Date Submitted: April 14, 2025, 3:11 p.m.

Action: Passed

Amendment LC #: Pending LC #

Description of Amendment: Adopt amendment

Motioned By: Castaneda, Jose

Seconded By: Morton, Desiree

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 6 - 0 - 0

Sen. Myrdal, Janne	Yea
Sen. Castaneda, Jose	Yea
Sen. Braunberger, Ryan	Yea
Rep. Schreiber-Beck, Cynthia	Yea
Rep. Morton, Desiree	Yea
Rep. Hager, LaurieBeth	Yea

SCR 4017 041425 1512 PM Roll Call Vote

Final Recommendation

SCR 4017

Date Submitted: April 14, 2025, 3:12 p.m.

Recommendation: In Place Of

Amendment LC #: 25.3041.01003

Engrossed LC #: N/A

Description:

Motioned By: Braunberger, Ryan

Seconded By: Morton, Desiree

House Carrier: Morton, Desiree

Senate Carrier: Braunberger, Ryan

Emergency Clause: None

Vote Results: 6 - 0 - 0

Sen. Myrdal, Janne	Yea
Sen. Castaneda, Jose	Yea
Sen. Braunberger, Ryan	Yea
Rep. Schreiber-Beck, Cynthia	Yea
Rep. Morton, Desiree	Yea
Rep. Hager, LaurieBeth	Yea

**REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
SCR 4017**

Your conference committee (Sens. Myrdal, Castaneda, Braunberger and Reps. Schreiber-Beck, Morton, Hager) recommends that in place of amendment [25.3041.01001](#) adopted by the House, SCR 4017 is amended by amendment [25.3041.01003](#).

SCR 4017 was placed on the Seventh order of business on the calendar.

25.3041.01003
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Myrdal
April 10, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

Introduced by **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017**

Senators Enget, Hogan, Hogue, Klein, Mathern

1 A concurrent resolution ~~recognizing pornography as a public health hazard~~ directing the
2 Legislative Management to consider studying the detrimental impacts of pornography.
3 ~~— WHEREAS, each day, countless people are exposed to sexually explicit content through a~~
4 ~~wide range of media, and these consumers often are unaware of the health risks posed by such~~
5 ~~material; and~~
6 ~~— WHEREAS, children are encountering pornography before their teens, and this early~~
7 ~~exposure may lead to low self-esteem and body image disorders and an increased desire to~~
8 ~~engage in risky sexual behavior; and~~
9 ~~— WHEREAS, in addition to promoting unhealthy sexual expectations, the adult entertainment~~
10 ~~industry produces media that objectifies women and children, as well as depicts rape and~~
11 ~~abuse; by associating violence with sexual gratification, these materials perpetuate the demand~~
12 ~~for sex trafficking, prostitution, child pornography, and sexual abuse images; and~~
13 ~~— WHEREAS, pornography has been linked to detrimental health effects, including brain~~
14 ~~development complications, emotional and medical afflictions, the inability to form and maintain~~
15 ~~intimate relationships, and sexual addiction; these dangers not only affect people on an~~
16 ~~individual level but also contribute to the degradation of the family unit, frequently leading to~~
17 ~~marital dissatisfaction and infidelity; and~~
18 ~~— WHEREAS, the ubiquity of pornography has resulted in a host of societal problems and~~
19 ~~potentially negative health effects, and it is of paramount importance that our leaders address~~
20 ~~this critical public health issue;~~
21 — WHEREAS, sexually explicit content is widely available and consumers often are unaware
22 of the risk posed by such material; and

1 WHEREAS, children may be exposed to pornography and early exposure may lead to low
2 self-esteem, body image disorders, unhealthy sexual expectations, and the association of
3 violence with sexual gratification; and

4 WHEREAS, the adult entertainment industry produces media that objectifies women and
5 children, and depicts rape and abuse, perpetuating the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution,
6 child pornography, and sexual abuse images; and

7 WHEREAS, pornography has been linked to detrimental effects and societal problems, and
8 it is of paramount importance that our leaders address this issue;

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**
10 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

11 ~~— That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly hereby recognize pornography as a public health~~
12 ~~hazard, and recognize the need for education, prevention, research, and policy changes to~~
13 ~~address the harmful influence and consequences of pornography; and~~

14 ~~— **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution~~
15 ~~to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and the Attorney~~
16 ~~General.~~

17 That the Legislative Management consider studying the detrimental impacts of
18 pornography; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the study analyze the current efforts for education,
20 prevention, and research related to the consequences of pornography, examine potential policy
21 changes, and include input from the relevant state agencies and other stakeholders; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Legislative Management report its findings and
23 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
24 the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.