

1 SJR87  
2 192258-1  
3 By Senators Hightower, Brewbaker, Williams, Allen, Chambliss  
4 and Shelnuttt  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 06-MAR-18

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8 RECOGNIZING PORNOGRAPHY AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS IN  
9 ALABAMA.

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11 WHEREAS, the harms of pornography are beyond the  
12 capability of an individual to address alone; efforts to  
13 prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate  
14 individuals and families concerning its harms, and to develop  
15 recovery programs must be addressed systematically in ways  
16 that hold broader influences accountable in order to counter  
17 the sexually toxic environment pornography perpetuates; and

18 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the  
19 hyper-sexualization of teens and prepubescent children in our  
20 society; due to advances in technology and the universal  
21 availability of the Internet, young children are exposed to  
22 hard core pornography at alarming rates leading to low  
23 self-esteem and eating disorders, an increase in problematic  
24 sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire to  
25 engage in risky sexual behavior as young adolescents; and

1           WHEREAS, because pornography treats women as objects  
2 and commodities for the viewer's use, it teaches girls they  
3 are to be used and boys to be the users;

4           WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse  
5 of women and children and often depicts rape and abuse as  
6 harmless; it equates violence towards women and children with  
7 sex and pain with pleasure, increasing the demand for sex  
8 trafficking, prostitution, and child sexual abuse; and

9           WHEREAS, the detrimental effects on the pornography  
10 user include emotional, mental, and medical illnesses, shaping  
11 deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming or maintaining  
12 intimate relationships, brain development and function, and  
13 problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

14           WHEREAS, research indicates that pornography is  
15 potentially biologically addictive and leads to increasing  
16 themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation,  
17 violence, and child sexual abuse; now therefore,

18           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
19 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognizing the public  
20 health crisis created by pornography in the State of Alabama,  
21 we acknowledge the need for education, prevention, research,  
22 and policy change at the community and societal level in order  
23 to address this epidemic that is harming the people of our  
24 state and our country as a whole.