

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

Reps. Calley and Frederick offered the following concurrent resolution:

1           A concurrent resolution to recognize that pornography is a  
2 public health crisis that leads to a broad spectrum of societal  
3 harms.

4           Whereas, Pornography has a detrimental impact on society. It  
5 promotes and encourages sexually toxic expectations and behaviors  
6 affecting children, adolescents, and adults; and

7           Whereas, Pornography often depicts unrealistic, inaccurate,  
8 and violent forms of sexual behavior. Pornography objectifies  
9 actors, and its use often reinforces sexual scripts devoid of  
10 mutual relationships. In addition, pornography normalizes sexual  
11 violence and abuse of women, men, and children and often depicts  
12 rape and abuse as if they are harmless; and

13           Whereas, Many children are exposed to pornography. Studies



1 from the mid 2000s show that rates of exposure to pornography as  
2 adolescents can reach up to 93% for boys and up to 63% for girls.  
3 One study that surveyed over 1,000 people between the ages of 15  
4 and 29 found that 69% of men and 23% of women viewed pornography  
5 before the age of 13; and

6       Whereas, Early exposure to pornography harms children and can  
7 promote unhealthy sexual behaviors. Research indicates that early  
8 exposure of pornography can lead to low self-esteem and body image  
9 disorders and can increase dangerous sexual activity among children  
10 and adolescents; and

11       Whereas, Pornography also has negative implications for  
12 adults. Emerging evidence shows some pornography users suffer  
13 detrimental effects, including impacts on brain functioning,  
14 development of emotional and medical illnesses, difficulty forming  
15 and maintaining intimate relationships, and problematic or harmful  
16 sexual behaviors; and

17       Whereas, Consumption of pornography leads to a vicious cycle  
18 of supply and demand. Recent research indicates that pornography  
19 may be biologically addictive, which leads to an escalating  
20 consumption of pornographic materials depicting extreme  
21 degradation, risky behavior, and violence. As a result, studies  
22 show pornography increases the demand for sex trafficking,  
23 prostitution, child sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and

24       Whereas, Pornography can erode the family unit. Research  
25 shows that pornography use is linked to greater sexual and  
26 relationship dissatisfaction and a lessened desire for forming  
27 intimate and lasting real-life bonds. This can have a  
28 destabilizing effect on relationships and families; and

29       Whereas, The World Health Organization has recognized

1 compulsive sexual behavior disorder as a diagnosable mental health  
2 condition. Clinical evidence suggests that approximately 80 percent  
3 of diagnosed cases involve problematic pornography use; and

4       Whereas, Overcoming pornography's harm is frequently beyond  
5 the capability of the afflicted individual to address without  
6 professional and community support; now, therefore, be it

7       Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate  
8 concurring), That we recognize that pornography is a public health  
9 crisis that leads to a broad spectrum of societal harms and  
10 requires education, prevention, research, and policy change at the  
11 community and societal level; and be it further

12       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
13 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
14 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan  
15 congressional delegation.

