A R E S O L U T I O N

To declare that pornography is a public health hazard with statewide and national public health impacts leading to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, Pornography is creating a public health crisis that perpetuates human trafficking and a sexually toxic environment; and

WHEREAS, According to statistics compiled by the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Ohio ranks as the fourth worst state in the nation for human sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Sex trafficking, prostitution, and pornography are all interrelated, in that over half of the victims of sex trafficking report having been required to learn and perform sexual acts according to depictions in pornography; and

WHEREAS, Sex traffickers often create pornography depicting victims of sex trafficking for display or sale online as a means of increasing income and control over victims; and
WHEREAS, The factors that compel men and women to enter into the pornography industry include poverty, homelessness, a history of childhood sexual or physical abuse, which are similar to the factors that make women, girls, and boys vulnerable to being trafficked for sex; and

WHEREAS, The pornography industry is mostly male-dominated by producers and directors who recruit and capitalize off of filming the exploitation, degradation, and sexualization of women; and

WHEREAS, The "#MeToo" movement has exposed how dangerous and harmful it is when men stop viewing women as valued coworkers, neighbors, friends, and family and instead view them as sexual objects; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that there is a correlation between men viewing pornography and an increased rate of interest in rape; and

WHEREAS, Pornography provides sexualized depictions of violence towards women and children, which correlates with an increased demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, Pornography is contributing to the precocious hypersexualization of adolescent and prepubescent children in our society; and

WHEREAS, Due to advances in technology and the universal availability of the Internet, the average boy is first being exposed to pornography between eleven and twelve years of age; and

WHEREAS, Within and before adolescence, this early exposure may lead to an increase in low self-esteem, problematic sexual activity, and body image disorders; and

WHEREAS, Exposure to pornography often serves as inaccurate
and unwanted sex education, shaping the sexual templates of children and teens by novel and repetitive exposure; and

WHEREAS, Potential detrimental effects of pornography on the user are that it can negatively impact healthy brain development and functioning, contribute to emotional and physical illnesses, shape deviant sexual desires and arousal, promote problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction, and lead to difficulty in forming or maintaining positive, intimate relationships; and

WHEREAS, Recent neurological research indicates that pornography is potentially biologically addictive, which means the user requires more novelty, often in the form of more shocking material, in order to be satisfied; and

WHEREAS, This biological addiction leads to increasing themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, child sexual abuse images, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, Pornography use is correlated with (1) a decreased desire in young men to marry, pursue intimacy, or engage socially, (2) dissatisfaction in marriage, and (3) infidelity, all of which demonstrate that pornography has a detrimental effect on the family unit; and

WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the harm on society that pornography poses, due to the unrestrained and instant access that men, women, and children have to it on the Internet; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, recognize and acknowledge that pornography is a public health hazard that leads to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of
Ohio, declare that the pornography epidemic must be addressed by encouraging education, prevention, research, and policy changes at the community and societal level to confront the proliferation of pornography on the Internet and human trafficking; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Ohio House of Representatives of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge enforcement of obscenity laws and increased regulation of pornography on the Internet at the state and federal level in order to protect the state's citizens, minors in particular, from such exposure; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to each member of the Ohio congressional delegation and the news media of Ohio.