

FAMILY ISSUE FACT SHEET

NO. 2019-04 (FEBRUARY 2019)

HCR 2009 PORNOGRAPHY; PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HCR 2009 is a concurrent resolution calling on the members of the Arizona legislature to denounce pornography as a public health crisis. The Arizona legislature should support this resolution to highlight the harmful effects of pornography on Arizona children and families.

THE RESOLUTION

The resolution lists the “broad spectrum of individual and public health impacts” that make pornography a public health crisis:

- It “perpetuates a sexually toxic environment that damages all areas of our society.”
- It may lead to “toxic sexual behaviors, emotional, mental and medical illnesses and difficulty forming or maintaining intimate relationships.”
- Recent studies have shown it is “potentially biologically addictive and requires increasingly shocking material” leading to “increasing themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence and child pornography.”
- It is “directly harming our nation’s youth by contributing to the hyper-sexualization of teens and even children.”
- Because of technological advances, “children are being exposed to pornography at an alarming rate, leading to low self-esteem, eating disorders and an increase in problematic sexual activity at ever-younger ages.”
- It “often serves as sex education for children and shapes their sexual templates, teaching them that women are commodities for the viewer’s use.”
- It “normalizes violence and the abuse of women and children . . . increasing the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution and child pornography.”
- It “has an adverse effect on the family as it is correlated with decrease desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage and infidelity.”
- Its “societal damage . . . is beyond the capability of the individual to address alone.”

Therefore, the resolution calls the state and nation to “systematically prevent exposure and addiction to pornography, educate individuals and families about its harms and develop pornography recovery programs.”

CONCLUSION

The Arizona legislature should support this resolution because pornography is a public health crisis that damages individuals and families, perpetuates a sexually toxic culture, and increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, and child pornography.

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