

A resolution recognizing pornography as a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms.

WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, pornography perpetuates a sexually toxic environment that encourages sexual harassment and abuse of women; and

WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the hyper-sexualization of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, advances in technology and the universal availability of the Internet have exposed young children to hardcore pornography at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, early exposure to pornography is leading to low self-esteem and body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire among children and youth to engage in harmful sexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, pornography treats people as objects and commodities for the viewer's use; teaching girls that they are to be used and teaching boys to be users; and

WHEREAS, pornography often depicts rape and abuse as if such acts are harmless; and

WHEREAS, pornography equates violent acts with sex and increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, images of child sexual abuse, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, use of pornography can negatively affect brain development and functioning, contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, cause deviant sexual arousal, and lead to difficulty in forming or maintaining intimate relationships, as well as problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

WHEREAS, this biological addiction leads to increasing themes of harmful sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, child sexual abuse, and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, pornography use is linked to lessening desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity; and

WHEREAS, this link demonstrates that pornography has a detrimental effect on the individual, the family, their relationships, and the community; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Party of Minnesota (1) recognizes pornography as a public health hazard leading to a broad spectrum of individual and societal harms; and (2) recognizes the need for education, prevention, research, and policy change at the community and societal level in order to address the pornography epidemic that is harming the people of the State of Minnesota and the nation.