

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN

Introduced: 5/14/19

Referred: Education, Health & Social Services, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Recognizing the public health crisis created by the accessibility and pervasiveness of**
2 **pornography; and recognizing the need for education, prevention, research, and**
3 **changes in public policy to address the harms caused by the accessibility and**
4 **pervasiveness of pornography in communities in the state.**

5 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

6 **WHEREAS** pervasive access to and use of pornography by increasingly younger
7 audiences is creating a public health crisis, the harms of which are beyond the capability of
8 the individual alone to address; and

9 **WHEREAS** efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate
10 individuals and families concerning pornography's harms, and to develop recovery programs
11 must be addressed systemically in ways that hold broader influences accountable in order to
12 counter the sexually toxic environment perpetuated by the pervasiveness of pornography; and

13 **WHEREAS** pornography is contributing to the hyper-sexualization of teens and
14 prepubescent children in communities in the state; and

15 **WHEREAS**, because of advances in technology and the near universal availability of

1 the Internet, young children are being exposed at an alarming rate to what was formerly
2 referred to as hard core pornography but is now considered mainstream pornography; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in a 2015 survey by the Barna Group, 27 percent of older millennials, 27
4 to 32 years of age, reported that they first viewed pornography before puberty; and

5 **WHEREAS** early exposure to pornography is leading to low self-esteem, eating
6 disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire
7 in young adolescents to engage in risky sexual behaviors; and

8 **WHEREAS** exposure of children and youth to pornography distorts sexual templates
9 and undermines sex education efforts; and

10 **WHEREAS** pornography objectivizes its subjects, reducing individuals to
11 commodities for the viewer's use; and

12 **WHEREAS** the detrimental effects of pornography include emotional, mental, and
13 medical illnesses, difficulty forming and maintaining intimate relationships, alterations to
14 brain structure and function, and problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the public health
16 crisis created by the accessibility and pervasiveness of pornography; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature recognizes the need for
18 education, prevention, research, and changes in public policy to address the harms caused by
19 the accessibility and pervasiveness of pornography in communities in the state.