

SESSION OF 2018

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON  
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1762**

As Recommended by Senate Committee  
of the Whole

**Brief\***

SR 1762 makes several findings of fact concerning the harms of pornography and states the following:

- Pornography is creating a public health crisis and perpetuates a sexually toxic environment;
- Efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate individuals and families concerning its harms, and to develop recovery programs must be addressed systematically;
- Due to advances in technology and the universal availability of the internet, young children are exposed to pornography at an alarming rate, with 27 percent of millennials, aged 25 to 30, reporting that they first viewed pornography before puberty, based on a 2016 Barna Group Study;
- This early exposure can lead to low self-esteem and body image disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and increased desire among adolescents to engage in risky sexual behavior;

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

- Exposure to pornography often serves as a child's and a teen's sex education and shapes their sexual understanding, because pornography treats women and children as objects and commodities for the viewer's use. Pornography teaches girls that they are to be used and teaches boys to be users;
- Pornography normalizes violence and abuse against women and children by treating women and children as objects, and often depicts rape and abuse as if they are harmless. Moreover, pornography equates violence towards women and children with sex, and equates pain with pleasure, which increases child sexual abuse and child pornography and the demand for sex trafficking and prostitution, according to a 2012 study published in The Protection Project Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society;
- The potential detrimental effects on viewers of pornography can impact brain development and functioning, contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape deviant sexual arousal, as well as problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction, and lead to difficulty in forming or maintaining intimate relationships;
- Recent research indicates that pornography is potentially biologically addictive, which means the user requires more mental stimulation, often in the form of more shocking material, in order to be satisfied. This biological addiction often leads to increasing themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, and child sexual abuse images and child pornography;

- Pornography use is linked to lessened desire in young men and women to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage and infidelity, which has a detrimental effect on the family unit;
- Pornography has contributed to a rise in the occurrence of erectile dysfunction in young men; and
- Overcoming pornography's harms is extremely difficult for the afflicted individual to address alone.

The Secretary of the Senate would be required to send enrolled copies of the resolution to the following:

- The Attorney General;
- The Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director;
- The Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent;
- The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Secretary;
- The Kansas Library Association;
- The Kansas County and District Attorneys Association;
- The Kansas Sheriffs' Association;
- The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police;
- The Kansas Association of District Court Clerks and Administrators;
- The Kansas Appellate Courts;
- The Kansas Supreme Court;

- The Leagues of Kansas Municipalities;
- The Kansas County Commissioners Association;
- The American Family Association of Kansas and Missouri State Director; and
- Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook.

### **Background**

SR 1762 (2018) was introduced in the Senate by Senators Pilcher-Cook, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Billinger, Bowers, Denning, Estes, Faust-Goudeau, Fitzgerald, Francisco, Givens, Goddard, Hardy, Hawk, Hilderbrand, Holland, Kerschen, Longbine, Lynn, Masterson, McGinn, Olson, Petersen, Pettey, Pyle, Schmidt, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, Tyson, Wagle, and Wilborn.

On January 31, 2018, the resolution was referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole. The resolution was adopted by the Committee on February 6, 2018.

### ***Related Legislation: 2017 HR 6016 and 2017 HR 1723***

#### ***2017 HR 6016***

HR 6016 (2017) was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives Humphries, Blex, Brim, Crum, Elliott, Garber, Highland, Jacobs, Murnan, Osterman, Powell, Rafie, Resman, Adam Smith, Eric Smith, Sutton, Weber, Whitmer, Williams, and Wilson.

In the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs hearing, on March 16, 2017, Representatives Powell and Rafie, representatives of American Family Action of Kansas and Missouri and the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas, and one private citizen appeared in support of the resolution.

Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Catholic Conference and the Office of the Attorney General. No other testimony was provided.

The House Committee recommended the resolution be adopted. The House Committee of the Whole adopted the resolution on March 30, 2017. The resolution was enrolled on April 13, 2017.

### *2017 SR 1723*

SR 1723 (2017) was introduced in the Senate by Senators Pilcher-Cook, Alley, Baumgardner, Berger, Billinger, Bollier, Bowers, Denning, Doll, Estes, Faust-Goudeau, Fitzgerald, Givens, Goddard, Hawk, Kerschen, LaTurner, Lynn, Masterson, Olson, Petersen, Pyle, Suellentrop, Sykes, Taylor, Tyson, Wagle, and Wilborn.

In the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs hearing, on March 16, 2017, Representatives Powell and Rafie, representatives of American Family Action of Kansas and Missouri and the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas, and one private citizen appeared in support of the resolution. Written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas Catholic Conference and the Office of the Attorney General. No other testimony was provided.

The Senate Committee recommended the resolution be adopted. The Senate Committee of the Whole took no action on the resolution.