A RESOLUTION declaring pornography to be a public health crisis, encouraging education on the dangers of pornography, and requesting the increased enforcement of current laws to curb the objectification and exploitation of women and children.

WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse against women and children by treating them as objects; and

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

WHEREAS, pornography use puts people at increased risk of committing sexual offenses; and

WHEREAS, advances in technology have resulted in children and youth being exposed to and actively seeking what used to be referred to as hardcore pornography, but is now mainstream, at an alarming rate, leading to low self-esteem and eating disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and an increased desire to engage in risky sexual behavior as young adolescents; and

WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects on the user such as emotional, mental and medical illnesses; and

WHEREAS, pornography has potential addictive effects and can lead to increasing themes of risky sexual behaviors, extreme degradation, violence, and child sexual abuse images/child pornography; and

WHEREAS, pornography use has a detrimental effect on the health of the family as it is linked to lessening desire in young men to marry, dissatisfaction in marriage, and infidelity; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky General Assembly desires that women and children are viewed and treated with dignity; and

WHEREAS, obscenity is pervasive despite being degrading, harmful, and unprotected speech; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky State Police recently expanded fourfold the resources
dedicated to fighting Internet crimes against children; and

WHEREAS, the obscenity industry considers the line of legality to be drawn by prosecutors, not by legislators, and pornographers in many parts of the country responded by self-regulating when federal obscenity laws were enforced; and

WHEREAS, pornography is creating a public health crisis and, therefore, its harms are beyond the capability of the individual to address alone;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. This honorable body commits to protecting the dignity of all women and children.

Section 2. This honorable body recognizes the public health crisis created by pornography.

Section 3. This honorable body acknowledges the need for education about the harmful effects of pornography use for the individual and society and the need for prevention, research, and policy change at the community and societal level in order to address the epidemic that is harming the people of our state and our country as a whole.

Section 4. This honorable body respectfully requests prosecutors to treat the prosecution of obscenity and other sexual exploitation offenses with high priority and to seek adequate penalties to dissuade such offenses.

Section 5. This honorable body commends the Kentucky law enforcement for fighting Internet crimes against children and in the lifesaving work done by its troopers, officers, and civilians in rescuing children from exploitation and trafficking and respectfully requests all law enforcement within the Commonwealth to enforce current obscenity and other sexual exploitation laws.