

The House Committee on Health and Human Services offers the following substitute to HR 447:

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and finding that pornography is a public health concern leading to a broad
2 spectrum of individual and public health impacts and societal harms; and for other purposes.

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

5 WHEREAS, efforts to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate individuals
6 and families concerning its harms, and to develop recovery programs must be addressed
7 systemically in ways that hold broader influences accountable in order to counter the
8 sexually toxic environment it perpetuates; and

9 WHEREAS, pornography is contributing to the hyper-sexualization of teens, and even
10 prepubescent children, in our society; and

11 WHEREAS, due to the advances in technology and the universal availability of the Internet,
12 young children are exposed to pornography at an alarming rate, with 27 percent of older
13 millennials reporting that they first viewed pornography before puberty, and this may lead
14 to low self-esteem, eating disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity at younger
15 ages, and an increased desire to engage in risky sexual behavior as young adolescents; and

16 WHEREAS, children and youth are exposed to pornography that oftentimes serves as their
17 sex education and shapes their sexual templates, and pornography normalizes deviant
18 behavior to young impressionable minds due to the frequency and ease of access to
19 pornography through the Internet; and

20 WHEREAS, pornography normalizes violence and abuse and often depicts rape and abuse
21 as if it were harmless; and

22 WHEREAS, pornography equates violence with sex and pain with pleasure which increases
23 the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, and child sexual abuse; and

24 WHEREAS, pornography has potential detrimental effects of the user, such as emotional,
25 mental, and medical illnesses, shaping deviant sexual arousal, difficulty forming or
26 maintaining intimate relationships, brain development and functioning, problematic or
27 harmful sexual behaviors, and addiction.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize the detrimental effects of pornography and find that it
30 is a public health concern leading to serious mental and physical problems.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the
33 public and the press.