

1
2
3 Title: Limit the Pornography Viewing by Minors Over the Internet

4
5 Introduced by: Joseph M. Beals, MD, for the Wayne County Delegation

6
7 Original Author: Joseph M. Beals, MD

8
9 Referred To: Reference Committee E

10
11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**

13
14 Whereas, the pornography industry has developed at a fast-pace secondary to Internet
15 accessibility, and

16
17 Whereas, explicit material is readily available on the internet, and

18
19 Whereas, the number of pornography consumers is steadily increasing, mostly represented
20 by men and young adults below the age of 34, and

21
22 Whereas, 70 percent of adult U.S. citizens age 18-30 admit to watching online pornography
23 at least once per month, and

24
25 Whereas, 60 percent of college students admit to viewing pornography once per week, and

26
27 Whereas, 59-96 percent of adolescents in countries such as Taiwan and Sweden view
28 pornography, and

29
30 Whereas, while pornography has a long history, new technology offers unlimited sexual
31 diversity via free-of-charge online websites, and

32
33 Whereas, long term use of pornography correlates with erectile dysfunction, decreased
34 libido, and lower sexual and relationship satisfaction, and has a negative effect on the quality of
35 social relationships, and

36
37 Whereas, while the incidence of pornographic use is mostly in the male population, the
38 incidence of women using pornography is increasing, and

39
40 Whereas, frequent use of pornography leads to increased incidence of buying sex; therefore
41 be it

42
43 RESOLVED: That MSMS support legislation that would strengthen child-centric content
44 protection by internet service providers and/or search engines in order to limit the access of
45 pornography to minors on the Internet and mobile applications; and be it further

46
47 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask
48 our AMA support legislation that would strengthen child-centric content protection by internet

49 service providers and/or search engines in order to limit the access of pornography to minors on
50 the internet and mobile applications; and be it further

51

52 RESOLVED: That MSMS support education of parents and health care providers about the
53 public health impact of pornography exposure during childhood.

54

55

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000-\$2,000 for new MSMS and AMA policy.

Relevant MSMS Policy: None

Relevant AMA Policy:

H-60.934: Internet Pornography Protecting Children and Youth Who Use the Internet and Social Media

Our AMA: (1) Recognizes the positive role of the Internet in providing health information

to children and youth. (2) Recognizes the negative role of the Internet in connecting children and youth to predators and exposing them to pornography. (3) Supports federal legislation that restricts Internet access to pornographic materials in designated public institutions where children and youth may use the Internet.

(4) Encourages physicians to continue efforts to raise parent/guardian awareness about the importance of educating their children about safe Internet and social media use. (5) Supports school-based media literacy programs that teach effective thinking, learning, and safety skills related to Internet and social media use.