

HCR 72 -- PORNOGRAPHY

SPONSOR: Wilson

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Legislative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 3.

This resolution warns of the dangers of pornography and recognizes that it is a public health hazard that could lead to societal harms. It recognizes the need for more education, prevention, research, and policy change at the community and societal level, and it urges governing bodies to take appropriate steps to ensure that progress is made.

This bill is similar to HCR 20 (2019).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the pornography addiction epidemic is not disappearing and it is ripping families apart. Porn Hub reported that the site had approximately 30 billion hits last year alone. Many men have stated that they would like to be free from the addiction but are unable. This addiction also fosters human trafficking, and it reaches farther and wider every year. Children are being abducted every year, primarily in Kansas City and St. Louis. The average age of exposure to pornography is also getting younger; it is down to 8 years old.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Wilson; Missouri Catholic Conference; and the National Decency Coalition.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.