



## Requiring a Report on the Health Impact of Online Pornography

### Memorandum of Support

Internet pornography is having a major impact upon culture and society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Culture Reframed, “a multidisciplinary team of experts and scholars helping to build the public’s capacity to deal with pervasive sexually violent online pornography,” offers the following facts on the use of internet pornography:

- The average boy’s first exposure to internet pornography occurs at age 11;
- Pornographic websites “[receive] more visitors each month than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter combined;
- 88% of scenes in “top rented [and] downloaded porn contain violence against women”; and
- 20% of “sexts” (sexually oriented messages sent on cellular phones or other mobile devices” depict children 15 years of age or younger.<sup>1</sup>

According to a 2012 op-ed in The Daily Caller, “habitual use of pornography fosters ‘a higher tolerance for abnormal sexual behaviors, sexual aggression, promiscuity, and even rape.’” The same op-ed goes on to assert that pornography use is connected to troubles at work, sexual dysfunction, infidelity, and divorce, and that it causes emotional damage to the female partners of male pornography users.<sup>2</sup> A 2014 survey by The Barna Group indicated that 18% of American men either believed that they were addicted to pornography or were uncertain about whether they were

---

<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.culturereframed.org>, last accessed March 16, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://dailycaller.com/2012/07/16/how-pornography-harms-women-and-men/2/#ixzz4bTutI4BL>, last accessed March 16, 2017.

addicted.<sup>3</sup> Finally, some experts identify pornography as a “key ingredient” in fueling the sex trafficking industry.<sup>4</sup>

In light of these sobering facts, New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms supports state legislation to establish a committee within the New York State Health Department to study and report upon the public health effects of internet pornography. A current draft of such legislation (which, as of this writing, has not been introduced) provides that said committee shall issue a report by October 1, 2018 on the public health effects of internet pornography, together with potential recommendations for educational or policy efforts to combat internet pornography.

Given the pervasive nature of internet pornography, and given the serious concerns that have been raised about its effects upon individuals, families, and societies, the proposed legislation is both appropriate and timely. NYCF supports its prompt passage.

---

<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/penny-starr/pornography-use-among-self-identified-christians-largely-mirrors-national>, last accessed March 16, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> See [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/johnhenry-westen/want-to-stop-sex-traffick\\_b\\_6563338.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/johnhenry-westen/want-to-stop-sex-traffick_b_6563338.html), last accessed March 16, 2017.