



## NATIONAL CENTER ON SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

### **The Alabama Senate is Right to Acknowledge Science and Recognize Pornography as a Public Health Crisis**

*Statement by Dawn Hawkins, Executive Director of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation*

**Washington, DC** – As the National Center on Sexual Exploitation celebrates the Alabama State Senate unanimously recognizing pornography as a public health crisis, we also call on the Alabama House of Representatives to do the same.

“Modern pornography—with its limitless quantity, speed, and violent or degrading themes—is a jarring new variable in human evolution,” said Dawn Hawkins, Executive Director of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation. “It’s not surprising that such a variable would have negative effects on brains and bodies built for person-to-person sexual contact. Medical professionals, elected officials, therapists and more are beginning to acknowledge the harms of pornography.”

The National Center on Sexual Exploitation has created a [Research Summary](#) that reviews 99 studies on the harms of pornography. Some findings include:

- **Pornography Has Detrimental Impacts on the Brain:** There have been [over](#) 40 neurological studies which reveal pornography use has negative and detrimental impacts on the brain.
- **Pornography Teaches Users that Women Enjoy Sexual Violence and Degradation:** A recent [study](#) of Pornhub videos found that 43% of videos included what the researchers categorized as “visible aggression” and 15% included “nonconsensual aggression.” This violence was almost ubiquitously portrayed against women, and women responded to that violence with pleasure. In response to these findings, the researcher noted that the prevalence of aggressive and demeaning acts in videos featuring teenagers, “may signal to viewers of all ages that these acts are not only normative and legitimate, but perhaps even expected,” thus creating social pressure on both young women and men to re-enact them with their sexual partners.
- **Pornography is Linked to Depressive Symptoms:** A [study](#) of young adults leaving college found that higher pornography use was significantly associated with less self-worth and more depressive symptoms. This was consistent after controlling for age, religiosity, impulsivity, race, and parent’s marital status.

The CDC told [CNN](#) in early 2019 that “Pornography can be connected to other public health

issues like sexual violence and occupational HIV transmission.”

**“The national movement to address pornography’s public health harms includes 15 other states who recognize the harmful effects of pornography and aim to curb the demand for this form of sexual exploitation through legislation,”** continued Hawkins. “These [states](#) include Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.”

Learn more about the public health harms of pornography at [EndSexualExploitation.org/publichealth](https://EndSexualExploitation.org/publichealth)

*If you would like to schedule an interview, please contact Kelly Oliver at (703) 307-9404 or [kelly@kellyoliverpr.com](mailto:kelly@kellyoliverpr.com).*

**About National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE)**

Founded in 1962, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) is the leading national organization exposing the links between all forms of sexual exploitation such as child sexual abuse, prostitution, sex trafficking and the public health crisis of pornography.

###

[www.EndSexualExploitation.org](http://www.EndSexualExploitation.org)

National Center on Sexual Exploitation  
440 1st Street NW, Suite 840 Washington, DC 20001