



Texas Advocates United for Sexual Health (TAUSH) is a coalition of local community members and activists that have come together to promote sexual health and to preserve children, families, and relationships. We employ grassroots efforts in order to educate Texans and to advocate for solutions that elevate public health. There is mounting evidence that viewing pornography negatively impacts healthy sexual development. We are seeing unprecedented damage at every age and stage.

Internet pornography has been dubbed the greatest unofficial human experiment of all time. The digital age has made pornography ***accessible, affordable and anonymous***. Porn is everywhere and people are watching lots of it. Science and research clearly show a wide range of harm caused by pornography.

- A survey of college students found that 93% of boys and 62% of girls are exposed to internet porn before the age of 18. It's not a matter of if, but when a child will see pornography. [1]
- A nationally representative survey found that 64% of people 13–24 actively seek out pornography weekly or more often. Nearly 1 in 2 men and 1 in 10 women view pornography in any given week. [2]
- A popular porn website reports that in 2015 people watched 4,392,486,580 hours of pornography on its site alone; 54% of visits to its site occurring via mobile phone. [3]
- Viewing pornography has the same effect in the brain as drugs and is highly addictive. [4]
- Viewing pornography is correlated to sexual aggression and violence, the objectification of women in society, and an increase in risky sexual behavior. [5]
- Pornography frequently leads to unhealthy ideas about sex, sexual dysfunction and complex problems in intimate relationships. [6]
- Many pornography users' partners experience trauma, depression, and anxiety after discovery of virtual infidelity. [7]
- Many victims of sex trafficking are used to film pornography. [8]



In order to address these complex issues, Texas Advocates United for Sexual Health is proposing that the Texas legislature adopts a resolution declaring pornography a public health crisis.

Public health approaches have proven effective in changing cultural norms and individual behaviors. We've seen this with other major public health campaigns. For example: decreased tobacco use, increased seat belt use and lower incidences of drinking and driving. A public health approach is now needed to address pornography. There is a wealth of research coming from many fields that support the need for change. Leadership and investments are needed in a multi-disciplined, multi-pronged approach to be effective against a well-funded porn industry.

Earlier this year Utah passed a resolution similar to the one we are proposing that Texas adopt. State legislators in Utah saw that the harms of pornography are clearly evident with overwhelming scientific and social research—research which demonstrates that resolutions like the one they passed are vital for the sexual health of future generations. If passed in Texas, the resolution will raise awareness about the harms of pornography and the need to protect children from early exposure. The resolution will also serve as a guidepost for leaders about future policy decisions such as enforcement of existing obscenity laws, requiring libraries, schools and public Wi-Fi to install filtering software, and developing recommendations for how schools can address risky behaviors such as sexual exploitation and sexting among young people.

Courageous leaders are needed to take on a Big Industry that is motivated by self-interest and profit. Our state, and our nation, are in need of champions who will defend individuals, families, and communities from the catastrophic health harms that pornography brings. The responsibility to preserve Texans' sexual health needs to grow beyond individual / family accountability. We ask *you* to consider joining with us by carrying a state resolution declaring pornography a public health crisis in Texas to the Senate floor in Austin.

Sincerely,

Texas Advocates United for Sexual Health

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TEXAS ADVOCATES UNITED for SEXUAL HEALTH
PRESERVING CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS

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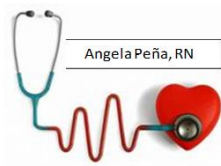


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