Whereas, The pornography industry has developed at a fast-pace secondary to Internet accessibility; and
Whereas, Explicit material is readily available on the internet; and
Whereas, The number of pornography consumers is steadily increasing, mostly represented by men and young adults below the age of 34; and
Whereas, 70 percent of adult U.S. citizens aged 18-30 admit to watching online pornography at least once per month; and
Whereas, 60 percent of college students admit to viewing pornography once per week; and
Whereas, 59-96 percent of adolescents in countries such as Taiwan and Sweden view pornography; and
Whereas, While pornography has a long history, new technology offers unlimited sexual diversity via free-of-charge online websites; and
Whereas, Long term use of pornography correlates with erectile dysfunction, decreased libido, and lower sexual and relationship satisfaction, and has a negative effect on the quality of social relationships; and
Whereas, While the incidence of pornographic use is mostly in the male population, the incidence of women using pornography is increasing; and
Whereas, Frequent use of pornography leads to increased incidence of buying sex; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association amend existing policy H-60.934, “Internet Pornography Protecting Children and Youth Who Use the Internet and Social Media,” by addition to read as follows:

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.
(6) Actively support legislation that would strengthen child-centric content protection by internet service providers and/or search engines in order to limit the access of pornography to minors on the internet and mobile applications. (Modify Existing Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

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

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.

Citation: BOT Rep. 10, I-06; Modified: CSAPH Rep. 01, A-16