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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Tallman ORIGINAL DATE 2/8/18 HB _____
LAST UPDATED _____
SHORT TITLE Pornography as Public Health Hazard SJM 14
ANALYST Chilton

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY18	FY19	FY20	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

Senate Joint Memorial 14 asks the State Legislature to recognize that pornography represents a threat to the public health. In the preamble, the memorial enumerates a long list of ill-effects of the increasing prevalence of and availability of pornographic material to children and adults of all ages. The Legislature would be asked to recognize the need for education and research to address what it describes as a pornography epidemic. The memorial would be sent to the Governor and the Secretary of Health.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation and there are no actions anticipated in the bill that would require more than minimal personnel work.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Many of the ill effects of pornography are mentioned in an American Academy of Pediatrics article included as an attachment, "Sexual Media and Childhood Well-Being and Health." In addition, as stated in the preamble to this memorial, child trafficking may be linked to the production of pornographic materials. Another American Academy of Pediatrics statement addresses this issue, and is attached: "Global Human Trafficking and Child Victimization."

Senate Joint Memorial 14 – Page 2

On the other hand recent United States data indicate a decrease in early child initiation of sexual activity and a decrease in teen pregnancy, concurrent with the increase in availability of pornographic materials. The birth rate for females 15-19 has fallen from 61.8 per thousand in 1991 to 24.2 in 2014, a decrease of 60 percent, the abortion rate, although New Mexico continues to be well above the national average, at 37.8 per thousand. (<https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-development/reproductive-health-and-teen-pregnancy/teen-pregnancy-and-childbearing/trends/index.html>). In case one might think this to be due to the more widespread availability of abortion, that is not the case: that rate too has fallen, from 29.3 abortions per thousand in 1980-81 to 14.6 per thousand in 2014 (<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/17/509734620/u-s-abortion-rate-falls-to-lowest-level-since-roe-v-wade>). National Center for Health Statistics Data Brief 209 (July 2015) indicates a parallel fall in sexual initiation prior to age 19 from 51 percent among females in 1988 to 44 percent in 2013, and from 60 percent to 47 percent among males.

LAC/sb