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Online hardcore porn is dangerous, especially in young people. It forms an image in their minds that women are nothing more objects to serve male's basest desires. They will come to expect that girlfriends will behave the same way that they do in porn.

It dehumanizes the sex experience, especially in young minds that are too immature to understand it.

From The American Psychological Association's 2017 press release:

- "We found that the younger a man was when he first viewed pornography, the more likely he was to want power over women,"

and also from the same publication:

"The findings provide further evidence that pornography viewing has a real impact on heterosexual men, especially with regard to their views about sex roles, according to Richardson. Knowing more about the relationship between men's pornography use and beliefs about women might assist sexual assault prevention efforts, especially among young boys who may have been exposed to pornography at an early age. This information could also inform the treatment of various emotional and social issues experienced by young heterosexual men who view pornography, she said. "

From The Institute for Family Studies (April 30, 2024): This is troubling because pornography is increasingly impacting children and youth in negative ways. With technology and the internet as a crucial and necessary part of life, pornography has never been more easily accessible to children: 93% of boys and 63% of girls report being exposed to internet pornography before the age of 18, with the average age of first exposure being 12 years old.

Axios reports that 16 other states have successfully instituted age verification for access to pornography.

In some, Pornhub (the largest internet porn provider) has "gone dark" in states requiring age verification. This is a feature, not a bug. Pornhub shows by this action that they are afraid of being regulated in this way.

There is an abundance of research that shows that young minds being exposed to porn is damaging. It demeans and objectifies women.

We require ID to buy tobacco and alcohol and we require that you be an adult.

Given the risks, we can take the simple step of using one of the other 16 states with this same restriction and implement them in the State of Maine.

This is easy and it hurts no one - and it shows that we are willing to take steps to protect our children, instead of leaving them to the tender mercies of PornHub.