

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 219

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging education about safety on the Internet and supporting the goals and ideals of National Internet Safety Month.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to raising awareness and encouraging education about safety on the Internet and supporting the goals and ideals of National Internet Safety Month.

Whereas, in the United States, 48 million children between the ages of 5 and 17 use computers;

Whereas 5- to 17-year-olds in the United States currently spend 5 billion hours online annually;

Whereas 70 million youth under the age of 18 worldwide are online;

Whereas the majority of teenagers' online use occurs after school, at home, when working parents are not at home;

Whereas 90 percent of those age 15 to 24 use the Internet, with almost half of them using it once a day or more;

Whereas approximately 3 out of 4 young people have access to the Internet at home, and nearly 1 in 3 has access from their own bedroom;

Whereas 9 out of 10 children between ages 8 and 16 have viewed pornography on the Internet, with most being accessed unintentionally when, often in the process of doing homework, a child used a seemingly innocent sounding word in an Internet search for information or pictures;

Whereas 62 percent of parents of teenagers are unaware that their children have accessed objectionable Websites;

Whereas 89 percent of sexual solicitations were made in either chat rooms or Instant Messages;

Whereas 30 percent of the girls responding to a Girl Scout Research study reported that they had been sexually harassed in a chat room, but only 7 percent told a parent about the harassment, most fearing their parents would overreact and ban computer usage altogether;

Whereas, in 1996, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was involved in 113 cases involving Internet crimes against children, but in 2001, the FBI opened 1,541 cases against suspects of Internet crimes involving child pornography or abuse; and

Whereas June as National Internet Safety Month will provide national awareness of the dangers of the Internet while offering education about how to be safe, responsible, and accountable on the Internet: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) National Internet Safety Month provides an
4 opportunity to educate the people of the United
5 States on the dangers of the Internet and the impor-
6 tance of being safe and responsible online;

7 (2) national and community organizations
8 should be recognized and applauded for their work
9 in promoting awareness of the dangers of the Inter-
10 net and for providing information on developing the
11 critical thinking and decision-making skills to be
12 safe online; and

13 (3) Internet safety organizations, law enforce-
14 ment, educators, and volunteers should continue to
15 increase their efforts to raise the awareness of online
16 safety.

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