

Internet safety curricula for grades kindergarten through 12, youth empowerment Internet safety campaigns and community-based Internet safety awareness presentations with the formation of community action teams—been more critical and readily at hand. It is imperative that every community in every State be made aware of the increase in Internet-based criminal activity so that all Americans may learn about the Internet safety strategies which will help them to keep their children safe from victimization.

Consider the facts: In the United States, more than 90 percent of children in grades 5 through 12 now use computers and have Internet access. Twenty-six percent of children in that age group are online for more than 5 hours a week and 12 percent spend more time online than they do with their friends.

An alarming statistic is that 39 percent of youths in grades 5 through 12 in the United States admit giving out their personal information, such as their name, age and gender over the Internet. Furthermore, 12 percent of students in the same age group have been asked by a stranger on the Internet to meet face to face. Unfortunately, 11.5 percent of students in this age group have actually met face to face with a stranger they met on the Internet.

Most disturbing are the patterns of Internet crimes against children. In 1996, the Federal Bureau of Investigation was involved in 113 cases involving Internet crimes against children. In 2001, the FBI opened 1,541 cases against people suspected of using the Internet to commit crimes involving child pornography or abuse. The U.S. Customs Service now places the number of Web sites offering child pornography at more than 100,000. Moreover, there was a 345 percent increase in the production of these sites just between February 2001 and July 2001, according to a recent study.

Now is the time for America to focus its attention on supporting Internet safety, especially bearing in mind that children will soon be on summer vacation and will subsequently spend more time online. Recent Internet crime trends indicate a call to action as it pertains to national Internet safety awareness at all levels.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 147) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 147

Whereas in the United States, more than 90 percent of children in grades 5–12 now use computers;

Whereas 26 percent of children in grades 5–12 in the United States are online for more

than 5 hours a week, and 12 percent of such children spend more time online than they do with their friends;

Whereas 53 percent of children and teens in the United States like to be alone when “surfing” the Internet, and 29 percent of such children believe their parents would either express concern, restrict their Internet use, or take away their computer if their parents knew where they were surfing on the Internet;

Whereas 32 percent of the Nation’s students in grades 5–12 feel they have the skills to get past filtering software, and 31 percent of youths in the United States have visited an inappropriate place on the Internet, 18 percent of them more than once;

Whereas 51 percent of the Nation’s students in grades 5–12 trust the people they chat with on the Internet;

Whereas 12 percent of the Nation’s students in grades 5–12 have been asked by someone they chatted with on the Internet to meet face to face, and 11.5 percent of such students have actually met face to face with a stranger they chatted with on the Internet; and

Whereas 39 percent of youths in grades 5–12 in the United States admit to giving out their personal information, such as name, age, and gender over the Internet, and 14 percent of such youths have received mean or threatening email while on the Internet: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2005 as “National Internet Safety Month”;

(2) recognizes that National Internet Safety Month provides an opportunity to educate the people of the United States on the dangers of the Internet and the importance of being safe and responsible online;

(3) commends and recognizes national and community organizations for their work in promoting awareness of the dangers of the Internet and for providing information and training that develops the critical thinking and decision making skills needed to be safe online; and

(4) calls on Internet safety organizations, law enforcement, educators, community leaders, parents, and volunteers to increase their efforts to raise the level of awareness in the United States regarding the need for online safety.

AUTHORIZING DISPLAY OF SENATE LEADERSHIP PORTRAIT COLLECTION

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 148 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A resolution (S. Res. 148) to authorize the display of the Senate leadership portrait collection in the Senate lobby.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 148) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 148

Whereas the objective of the Senate Leadership Portrait Collection is to commemorate the distinguished service to the Senate and the Nation of those Senators who have served as Majority Leader, Minority Leader, or President pro tempore: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That (a) portraits in the Senate Leadership Portrait Collection may be displayed in the Senate Lobby at the direction of the Senate Commission on Art in accordance with guidelines prescribed pursuant to subsection (d).

(b) The Senate Leadership Portrait Collection shall consist of portraits selected by the Senate Commission on Art of Majority or Minority Leaders and Presidents pro tempore of the Senate.

(c) Any portrait for the Senate Leadership Portrait Collection that is acquired on or after the date of adoption of this resolution shall be of an appropriate size for display in the Senate Lobby, as determined by the Senate Commission on Art.

(d) The Senate Commission on Art shall prescribe such guidelines as it deems necessary, subject to the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration, to carry out this resolution.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1061 AND S. 1062

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1061) to provide for secondary school reform, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 1062) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

S. 1062

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it has now been 8 long years since the Nation’s hardworking men and women had an increase in the minimum wage. The essence of the American dream is that if people work hard and play by the rules they can succeed in life and support their families. But for millions of hardworking Americans earning the minimum wage, that dream has become a cruel hoax. An American who works full time, year-round at the current minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour earns \$10,700 a year—\$5,000 below the poverty line for a family of three. The minimum wage is too low.

Today Congressman GEORGE MILLER and I are introducing the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2005 to raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour in three steps over the next 2 years. This increase will directly raise the pay of

seven and a half million workers, and indirectly benefit eight million more. Sixty-one percent of the beneficiaries are women, and one-third of those women are mothers. More than a third are people of color.

Two new reports emphasize the urgency of this increase for millions of low-wage Americans and their families. The Children's Defense Fund reports that a single parent working full time at the current minimum wage earns enough to cover only 40 percent of the cost of raising two children. Nearly 10 million children live in households that would benefit from the increase we are proposing.

A report from the Center for Economic Policy Research shows that minimum wage jobs are not just entry-level jobs for teenagers, contrary to what we often hear from opponents of the minimum wage. A third of minimum wage earners from ages 25 to 54 will still be earning the minimum wage 3 years later. Only 40 percent of them will have moved out of the low-wage workforce 3 years later.

No matter how hard they work, minimum wage workers are forced each day to make impossible choices—between paying the rent and buying groceries, or between paying the heating bill and buying clothes. These hard-working Americans have earned a raise and they deserve a raise. No one who

works for a living should have to live in poverty.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 19,
2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 19. I further ask consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and that the Senate then return to executive session and resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; provided further that the time from 10 a.m. to 10:45 be under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the time from 10:45 to 11:45 be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; provided further that from 11:45 to 1:45 be under majority control, and from 1:45 to 3:45 be under Democrat control. I further ask consent that the times then rotate every 60 minutes in a similar fashion; provided further that 6:45 to 8:15 be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and that 8:15 to 8:45 be under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Priscilla Owen to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Fifth Circuit. A number of our colleagues came to the floor today to speak on the nomination, and we had a good, substantive debate from both sides of the aisle. I hope Members will continue to come to the floor during tomorrow's session and engage in this important discussion.

I continue to hope that at some point, after everyone has had an opportunity to speak, we will be able to have an up-or-down vote on the nomination of Priscilla Owen. In the meantime, I thank Senators for coming to the floor, and I do encourage Senators to take advantage of the opportunity to speak over the course of the next several days.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 19, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.