

Obey	Rush	Taylor (MS)
Olver	Sabo	Thompson
Ortiz	Sanchez	Tierney
Owens	Sanders	Torres
Pallone	Sandlin	Towns
Pascrell	Sawyer	Velazquez
Pastor	Schumer	Vento
Payne	Scott	Visclosky
Pelosi	Serrano	Waters
Pomeroy	Skaggs	Watt (NC)
Poshard	Skelton	Waxman
Rahall	Slaughter	Wexler
Rangel	Smith, Adam	Weygand
Reyes	Snyder	Wise
Rodriguez	Stark	Woolsey
Ros-Lehtinen	Stokes	Wynn
Rothman	Strickland	Yates
Roybal-Allard	Stupak	

NOT VOTING—7

Berman	Farr	Lewis (GA)
Boyd	Gonzalez	
Etheridge	Lewis (CA)	

□ 1202

Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. SPRATT changed their vote from "no" to "aye." So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 2888, SALES INCENTIVE COMPENSATION ACT

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 2888, the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections and conforming changes to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 2888.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

CHILD PROTECTION AND SEXUAL PREDATOR PUNISHMENT ACT OF 1998

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 465 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3494.

□ 1205

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3494) to amend title 18, United States Code, with respect to violent sex crimes against children, and for other purposes, with Mr. McHugh in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCCOLLUM).

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3494, the Child Protection and Sexual Predator Punishment Act of 1998, is a very important piece of legislation that responds to the horrifying threat of sex crimes against children, particularly crimes against children facilitated by the Internet.

Industry experts estimate that more than 10 million children currently spend time on the Information Superhighway, and by the year 2002, 45 million children will use the Internet to talk with friends, do homework assignments, and explore the vast world around them.

Computer technologies and Internet innovations have unveiled a world of information that is literally just a mouse click away. Unfortunately, individuals who seek children to sexually exploit and victimize them also use the mouse click.

"Cyber-predators" often "cruise" the Internet in search of lonely, curious, or trusting young people. Sex offenders who prey on children no longer need to hang in the parks or malls or school yards. Instead, they can roam from Web site to chat room seeking victims with no risk of detection.

The anonymous nature of the on-line relationship allows users to misrepresent their age, gender, or interests. Perfect strangers can reach into the home and befriend a child.

Parents are confronted with new challenges regarding the World Wide Web. While they may warn their children about the dangers outside the home, they may not be aware of the dangers posed to a child on the Information Superhighway. Children are rarely supervised while they are on the Internet. Unfortunately, this is exactly what cyber-predators look for. We are seeing numerous accounts in which pedophiles have used the Internet to seduce or persuade children to meet them to engage in sexual activities. Children who have been persuaded to meet their new on-line friend face to face have been kidnapped, raped, photographed for child pornography, and worse. Some children have never been heard from again.

Law enforcement have also found a close relationship between child pornography and victimization by pedophiles. Even more than a snapshot of one child's horrible victimization, child pornography is a horrible tool for child molesters to recruit new victims. Often used to break down inhibitions and introduce and validate specific sex

acts as normal to a child, pedophiles frequently send pictures to young people to gauge a child's interest in a relationship. Child pornography is often used to blackmail a child into silence, once molestation ends.

Three factors, the skyrocketing on-line presence of children, the proliferation of child pornography on the Internet, and the presence of sexual predators trolling for unsupervised contact with children, has resulted in a chilling mix which has resulted in far too many terrible tragedies that steal the innocence from our children and create scars for life.

H.R. 3494, the Child Protection and Sexual Predator Punishment Act, provides law enforcement with the tools it needs to investigate and bring to justice those individuals who prey on our Nation's children, and sends a message to those individuals who commit these heinous crimes that they will be punished swiftly and severely.

H.R. 3494 targets pedophiles who stalk children on the Internet. It prohibits contacting a minor over the Internet for the purposes of engaging in illegal sexual activity and prohibits knowingly transferring obscene materials to a minor, or an assumed minor, over the Internet.

H.R. 3494 also prohibits transmitting or advertising identifying information about a child to encourage or facilitate criminal sexual activity. This bill doubles the maximum prison sentence from 5 to 10 years for enticing a minor to travel across State lines to engage in illegal sexual activity, and increases the maximum prison sentence from 10 to 15 years for persuading a minor to engage in prostitution or a sexual act. Moreover, the bill establishes a minimum sentence of 3 years for using a computer to coerce or entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.

In addition to Internet-related crimes, the bill also includes other very important provisions such as cracking down on serial rapists (those who commit Federal sexual assaults and have been convicted twice previously of serious State or Federal sex crimes), and authorizing pretrial detention for Federal sex offenders.

Mr. Chairman, nearly two-thirds of prisoners serving time for rape and sexual assault victimize children. Almost one-third of these victims were less than 11 years old.

The bill also increases the maximum prison sentence from 10 to 15 years for transporting a minor in interstate commerce for prostitution or sexual activity and requires the U.S. Sentencing Commission to review and amend the Federal sex offenses against children.

H.R. 3494 also doubles prison sentences for abusive sexual contact if the victim is under the age of 12, and doubles the maximum prison sentence available for second-time sex offenders.

H.R. 3494 also gives law enforcement the tools it needs to track down pedophiles, kidnappers, and serial killers. The bill allows for administrative