

ELIMINATE WAREHOUSING OF
CONSUMER INTERNET DATA ACT
OF 2006

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Eliminate Warehousing of Consumer Internet Data Act of 2006. This act is designed to ensure that personal information about consumers and their use of the Internet that is no longer necessary for any legitimate business purpose is destroyed. The warehousing of personal information about consumers' Internet use, data which often indicate nonpublic details of their lives, should not be stored needlessly awaiting compromise by data thieves or fraudsters or disclosure through judicial fishing expeditions.

Mr. Speaker, as America's telecommunications networks continue to grow and broadband digital technologies become ever more prevalent, individuals and industries will increasingly use such networks to communicate and conduct commercial transactions. The ease of gathering and compiling personal information during such communications, both overtly and surreptitiously, is highly efficient due to advances in digital telecommunications technology and the widespread use of the Internet.

As such information is gathered and gleaned from consumers, it is important to acknowledge that consumers have an ownership interest in their personal information. Information gathered about consumers over the Internet can provide detail about some of the most intimate aspects of an individual's life, including their surfing interests, communications with other citizens, purchases, information inquiries, and political or religious interests, affiliations, or speech. Certain information from Internet searches or website visits conducted from a particular computer can be obtained and stored by websites or search engines, and can be traced back to individual computer users. Some Internet search engines, for example, today can collect information about a consumer's search request, the Internet protocol address, the consumer's browser type and browser language, the date and time of the request, as well as information regarding cookies that may uniquely identify the consumer's browser.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in order to safeguard consumer privacy interests, companies that gather personal information that can identify individual consumers should cease to store such information after it is no longer necessary to render service to such consumers or to conduct any legitimate business practice. This is an obligation that cable operators today discharge. A cable operator, which can gather personal information about a subscriber's use of the cable system and obtain information about a consumer's video programming choices and use of their cable modem are currently required under section 631 of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. 551, to destroy any personal information gathered from a subscriber after it is no longer necessary for the purpose for which it was gathered and if there are no other pending legal requests for such information.

This legislation is designed to extend to consumers similar protection. It does so for

websites and Internet search engines who arguably possess information about computer users which is more detailed and more personalized, than information cable operators typically gather. It does however permit such entities to utilize such data to render service to consumers in a way which does not inhibit their ability to innovate and only requires that once the entity no longer has a legitimate reason to warehouse such information to destroy it within a reasonable period of time.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle on this and other consumer privacy issues this year and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL BLACK
HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. AIDS doesn't discriminate. It affects every race, age and gender but HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among African Americans ages 25–44. It has become a state of emergency.

In the United States, over 400,000 people were living with AIDS at the end of 2003 and African Americans accounted for half of these AIDS cases. The Center for Disease Control suggests that African Americans tend to be diagnosed later in life and at a more advanced stage. This explains why more blacks die sooner from AIDS related complications than any other group in the U.S.

African American women are hit the hardest. Rates of HIV/AIDS diagnosis in African American women are almost 20 times higher than white women and 5 times higher than those of Hispanic women. African American men are diagnosed at a rate of almost 7 times higher than those of white men.

Unfortunately it doesn't appear that the future is much brighter. Today, people under the age of 25 account for half of all new HIV infections each year. Within that group, African Americans account for 56 percent of new infections. No matter what age group one focuses in on, blacks are most impacted.

The President mentioned the AIDS epidemic in his State of the Union and the Federal Government must stay active in not just funding research initiatives but also in education and improving the lives of those in poverty. Nearly 1 in 4 African Americans lives in poverty. There is an association between higher AIDS cases and lower income. The socioeconomic problems associated with poverty, including limited access to high-quality health care and HIV prevention education, directly or indirectly increase HIV risk. If we can decrease poverty we can decrease the amount of African Americans with HIV/AIDS.

The Nation must take ownership and reinvigorate the response to the crisis within the African American communities and beyond. There must be a partnership between local community organizations with Federal and state agencies. Together we can combat and defeat this disease.

CONGRATULATING MARTIN D. POPKY ON THE OCCASION OF BEING HONORED BY THE SELIGMAN J. STRAUSS LODGE OF B'NAI B'RITH HOUSING FOUNDATION, INC.

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Martin D. Popky, of Kingston, Pennsylvania, who is being honored for his many years of service to the Seligman J. Strauss Lodge of B'nai B'rith Housing Foundation.

Mr. Popky has served as president of the Foundation for 35 years since the establishment of the B'nai B'rith Apartment complex in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the national board that operates 36 B'nai B'rith senior citizen housing projects in six countries.

The owner of a successful independent insurance agency, Mr. Popky recently celebrated 50 years with CNA Insurance Company during which time he was a high performance agent.

A member of the Masonic Lodge, Mr. Popky is also a member of the Irem Temple where he formed the Stewards Unit, serving as chief steward for more than 20 years.

A life member of Temple Israel and a member of Ohav Zedek Synagogue, Mr. Popky also served as secretary and a member of the board of directors of the Jewish Community Center. He was also a three term chairman of the United Hebrew Institute School Board and chairman of its board of trustees.

In 1993, Mr. Popky received the highest honor of the United Hebrew Institute when he received its Shofar Award.

An active volunteer in many civic activities, Mr. Popky founded the American Blind Bowlers Association; served as treasurer of GRIT; was the owner and operator of Washington Square Apartments and was treasurer of the Interfaith Council of Wyoming Valley.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Popky on this special occasion. His commitment to community improvement has had a positive effect on the quality of life in the greater Wyoming Valley and, by his example and hard work, he has demonstrated what it means to be a true leader.

SALUTE TO BARBARA BOWES

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as we begin this Second Session of the 109th Congress, I'd like to salute a constituent of mine, Barbara Bowes of Houston, Texas, who served as Jack Fields' district coordinator for the entire 16 years that Jack represented Texas' 8th Congressional District.

Barbara served her community not only as Jack's district coordinator but worked in our Houston district office. More important, she is a personal friend and someone I have come to admire over the last several decades.