

CHILD SAFE VIEWING ACT OF 2007

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 588, S. 602.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 602) to develop the next generation of parental control technology.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Safe Viewing Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Video programming has a direct impact on a child's perception of safe and reasonable behavior.

(2) Children may imitate actions they witness on video programming, including language, drug use, and sexual conduct.

(3) Studies suggest that the strong appeal of video programming erodes the ability of parents to develop responsible attitudes and behavior in their children.

(4) The average American child watches 4 hours of television each day.

(5) 99.9 percent of all consumer complaints logged by the Federal Communications Commission in the first quarter of 2006 regarding radio and television broadcasting were because of obscenity, indecency, and profanity.

(6) There is a compelling government interest in empowering parents to limit their children's exposure to harmful television content.

(7) Section 1 of the Communications Act of 1934 requires the Federal Communications Commission to promote the safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communications.

(8) In the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Congress authorized Parental Choice in Television Programming and the V-Chip. Congress further directed action on alternative blocking technology as new video technology advanced.

SEC. 3. EXAMINATION OF ADVANCED BLOCKING TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) **INQUIRY REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall initiate a notice of inquiry to consider measures to examine—

(1) the existence and availability of advanced blocking technologies that are compatible with various communications devices or platforms; and

(2) methods of encouraging the development, deployment, and use of such technology by parents that do not affect the packaging or pricing of a content provider's offering.

(b) **CONTENT OF PROCEEDING.**—In conducting the inquiry required under subsection (a), the Commission shall consider advanced blocking technologies that—

(1) may be appropriate across a wide variety of distribution platforms, including wired, wireless, and Internet platforms;

(2) may be appropriate across a wide variety of devices capable of transmitting or receiving video or audio programming, including television sets, DVD players, VCRs, cable set top boxes, satellite receivers, and wireless devices;

(3) can filter language based upon information in closed captioning;

(4) operate independently of ratings pre-assigned by the creator of such video or audio programming; and

(5) may be effective in enhancing the ability of a parent to protect his or her child from indecent or objectionable programming, as determined by such parent.

(c) **REPORTING.**—Not later than 270 days after the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue a report to Congress detailing any findings resulting from the inquiry required under subsection (a).

(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term "advanced blocking technologies" means technologies that can improve or enhance the ability of a parent to protect his or her child from any indecent or objectionable video or audio programming, as determined by such parent, that is transmitted through the use of wire, wireless, or radio communication.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Pryor amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the committee-reported substitute, as amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 5684) was agreed to, as follows:

On page 6, beginning in line 4, strike "TECHNOLOGIES." and insert "TECHNOLOGIES AND EXISTING PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT TOOLS."

On page 6, line 12, strike "and".

On page 6, line 16, strike "offering." and insert "offering; and".

On page 6, between 16 and 17, insert the following:

"(3) the existence, availability, and use of parental empowerment tools and initiatives already in the market."

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 602), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 602

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Safe Viewing Act of 2007".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Video programming has a direct impact on a child's perception of safe and reasonable behavior.

(2) Children may imitate actions they witness on video programming, including language, drug use, and sexual conduct.

(3) Studies suggest that the strong appeal of video programming erodes the ability of parents to develop responsible attitudes and behavior in their children.

(4) The average American child watches 4 hours of television each day.

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property through the use of wire and radio communications.

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SEC. 3. EXAMINATION OF ADVANCED BLOCKING TECHNOLOGIES AND EXISTING PARENTAL EMPOWERMENT TOOLS.

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(d) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term "advanced blocking technologies" means technologies that can improve or enhance the ability of a parent to protect his or her child from any indecent or objectionable video or audio programming, as determined by such parent, that is transmitted through the use of wire, wireless, or radio communication.

UNITED STATES-INDIA NUCLEAR COOPERATION APPROVAL AND NONPROLIFERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator DORGAN for his leadership on this issue and for his heartfelt and very well-articulated statement about the reasons why we need to amend this agreement before we proceed any further. I strongly agree with him, and I am honored to join with him in proposing an amendment that will improve the agreement that is coming to the Senate floor tonight for consideration.

The bill we are dealing with tonight seeks to obtain expedited approval of