

To: Commission on Online Child Protection

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Submitted By: Enough Is Enough

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Comments on First Hearing Subjects

Enough Is Enough's programs and resources are directed towards *Making the Internet Safe for Children and Families*.

Through the marvels of the Internet, vast new worlds of opportunity have been opened to this generation. Today the children of this country have access to information, which they could only have dreamed of in the past. The Internet is one of the most positive educational tools developed in our century. In the last few years it has begun to revolutionize the way we communicate, entertain, do business and live our lives. *It is fun, fascinating, and it is the future. Unfortunately, it has been misused and can seriously threaten the safety of our children.*

Our Mission: Enough Is Enough was launched in 1992 to educate the American people about the importance of protecting children from the harms of predators and pornography, and the link to sexual violence. With technology making computers affordable for millions of homes, schools and public libraries, America is now experiencing the fastest spreading and most dangerous pornography known to our society today... on the Internet. *There are two primary threats: children's easy access to pornography and predator's easy access to children.*

During the past eight years, the staff of Enough Is Enough has educated members of Congress, media, schools and libraries about the issue of computer pornography. We have initiated and sustained on-going dialogs with the technology community stressing corporate responsibility to protect children using their services. As a result, Enough Is Enough is now recognized as a leader on this issue and as a bridge builder between these entities, who see us seeking reasonable solutions that protect children and our Constitutional freedoms.

Enough Is Enough is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Because we focus on protecting children from pornography, we enjoy a diverse base of support that includes individuals from various political, social, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Sources of financial support include foundation grants, fundraising events, and corporate and individual contributions.

Addressing a Serious Problem in Our Society: Early in 1994, the staff of Enough Is Enough became aware of the pornographers' new method of delivery – the Internet. On the Internet, at home, at school, or in public libraries, children have access to some of the most harmful, hard core pornography available. Their lives are forever changed by the images they encounter.

The statistics are shocking:

- “Web surfers spent \$970 million on access to adult-content sites in 1998 and that is expected to rise to more than \$3 billion by 2003.” (U.S. News & World Report, 3/27/2000)
- “There are now 40,000 porn sites on the World Wide Web and probably thousands more. No one has been able to count them all.” (U.S. News and World Report, 3/27/2000)
- According to Nielson NetRatings, 17.5 million surfers visited porn sites from their homes in January; a 40% increase compared with 4 months earlier.
- Time Magazine predicted that 42 million children will be online by the year 2005, most will be unsupervised.

For the first time in history, child pornography, obscenity and harmful to minors material, which previously were not available on the open market, have become fair game to anyone who wants it – and often to those who don’t want it. Families now face the prospect of having it enter their children’s bedroom, school or library via the Internet.

Pedophiles pose another danger to children on the Internet. Pedophiles “hang out” and even lurk where children play. Today the computer is the playground of the new millenium where pedophiles befriend children, gain their trust, and can lure them from home and molest their prey. Recent newspaper articles report that there are numerous computer bulletin boards set up specifically for the seduction of children. Many parents are unaware that their children are at risk.

Enough Is Enough (EIE) is committed to preventing abuse of children, through education. We believe it is important for the technology industry, the legal community and the public to work together toward that goal.

The Orange County Register, Jan. 19, 1999 issue, in the World Report section, reported; "Abuse at emergency level: The number of sexually abused children has risen to emergency levels, and photos of them are finding their way increasingly onto computer screens, experts said Monday at a U.N. conference in Paris on pedophilia and the Internet."

It is generally acknowledged that the majority of children in this country know far more about computers and the Internet than their parents. Therefore, our children are at risk of either accessing inappropriate material (either intentionally or unintentionally) from the Internet, World Wide Web or e-mail and/or being stalked by a predator in chat rooms and e-mail, without parents or teachers being aware of the situation.

Workable Solutions with Measurable Results: Because of the assault on our children by on-line pedophile activity and the easy availability of dangerous material, Enough Is Enough is committed to taking a leadership role in this cutting-edge issue. We have designed our programs for 2000 around educating school age children, educators, librarians, legislators, law enforcers, and the public – empowering them to *Make the Internet Safe for Children*.

An important part of our communication effort is Enough Is Enough's "One Click " away award winning web site which received well over 1 1/2 million hits in 1999 and is averaging 4000 to 5000 hits per day this year.

Our site was launched in 1995. It was one of the first web sites to cover the issue of Internet Safety. Addressing all aspects of the problems and the solutions, including a dual approach focus on the prevention of child online exploitation as well as victim assistance.

Some of the categories of content include:

- Fun and educational links to sites that are safe for children and families
- Online predators; the dangers and safeguards
- Tips on safeguarding your home and children from pornography on the Net
- Links to filter products and our list of family friendly Internet service providers
- Understanding the truth about pornography and its harms
- Assistance for victims of pornography and sexual violence; referrals, hotlines and more

Extensive marketing and PR efforts have been made to promote the site in combination with our toll free number for those not yet online or Internet savvy.

In addition, Enough Is Enough has established our "CyberPartner" program which encourages our constituents to educate their sphere of influence on Internet Safety. We equip them through e-mail, keeping them informed with current articles, news and EIE resources.

Enough Is Enough believes that this wonderful new technology, the "Internet", is a tool that all of us will be using in the future. But with every new communication medium comes new responsibilities for parents, their children and educators. Our goal is to provide a powerful education program that will benefit all three, so this remarkable technology can thrive, while protecting this country's greatest resource, our children.

Summary: The Board of Directors and staff of Enough Is Enough cherish the freedoms provided by the Constitution of the United States. We also recognize the value of the Internet as an educational resource and a communication tool for students of all ages, businesses and individuals.

The Enough Is Enough staff has worked hard to devise a workable, fair, and constitutionally sound plan for *Making the Internet Safe for Children and Families*.

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