



Please Co-Sponsor and Support the EARN-IT Act to Eliminate Child Sexual Abuse Material on the Internet

Dear Senator,

March 14, 2022

Pro-Family Women strongly urges you to co-sponsor and support the bi-partisan EARN-IT Act, (Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies), S. 3538, passed unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This Act was introduced by senators from both parties and is supported by 256 U.S. organizations who believe that child sexual abuse should not be on the internet.

“Rape is Not Free Speech. Child Abuse is Not Free Expression.” This quote from the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE) captures the chilling reality of what is being allowed on the internet to be readily accessed by children of all ages. Images and videos of child sexual abuse have increased from 600,000 in 2008 to 85,000,000 (85 million) in 2021. Law enforcement agencies are overwhelmed and cannot monitor such quantity. Internet companies are aiding and abetting human trafficking which makes use of digital platforms for violence and abuse of women and minor children. This child sexual abuse material can be accessed by children of all ages on their smart phones. Such material damages a child’s developing brain, and teaches them an abnormal abusive understanding of sex. Children’s privacy is violated and they are retraumatized every time they learn that a video or image is shown. Emergency rooms report child-on-child abuse because they are acting out what they see on the internet.

The public needs to understand the horror of this content: deeply violent acts against women and children, extreme sexual acts, and, most horrifying, the rape of children. These online images and videos document crime scenes—egregious criminality that has no right to be on the internet.

The EARN-IT Act will hold internet companies accountable when they knowingly facilitate the distribution and consumption of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). It updates the 1996 Communications Decency Act (CDA-230) which allowed tech companies immunity from liability because they could claim only third parties were responsible. But the internet CSAM content violates federal law and state civil and criminal law. The government has a “compelling interest” and responsibility to protect children from criminal abuse. The EARN-IT Act does four things: 1) It clarifies that there is no immunity for tech companies and social media companies that knowingly facilitate distribution of CSAM. 2) It provides victims a path to justice and restoration of their privacy. 3) It replaces the term “child pornography” with “child sexual abuse material” which more accurately describes the content. 4) It establishes the Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Commission to a) establish best business practices and recommendations for policy and for the law and judiciary enforcement community. b) create a family-friendly filter system to prevent sex-trafficking, grooming and predatory behavior. We urge you to support the EARN-IT Act.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Muskett, J.D., President

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