

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1120

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require recipients of universal service support for schools and libraries to protect minors from commercial social networking websites and chat rooms.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2007

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MATHESON, Mrs. BIGGERT, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. GERLACH, and Mr. ROSKAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require recipients of universal service support for schools and libraries to protect minors from commercial social networking websites and chat rooms.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Deleting Online Preda-
5 tors Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) sexual predators approach minors on the
2 Internet using chat rooms and social networking
3 websites, and, according to the United States Attor-
4 ney General, one in five children has been ap-
5 proached sexually on the Internet;

6 (2) sexual predators can use these chat rooms
7 and websites to locate, learn about, befriend, and
8 eventually prey on children by engaging them in sex-
9 ually explicit conversations, asking for photographs,
10 and attempting to lure children into a face to face
11 meeting; and

12 (3) with the explosive growth of trendy chat
13 rooms and social networking websites, it is becoming
14 more and more difficult to monitor and protect mi-
15 nors from those with devious intentions, particularly
16 when children are away from parental supervision.

17 **SEC. 3. CERTIFICATIONS TO INCLUDE PROTECTIONS**
18 **AGAINST COMMERCIAL SOCIAL NETWORKING**
19 **WEBSITES AND CHAT ROOMS.**

20 (a) CERTIFICATION BY SCHOOLS.—Section
21 254(h)(5)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
22 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B)) is amended by striking clause (i)
23 and inserting the following:

24 “(i) is enforcing a policy of Internet
25 safety for minors that includes monitoring

1 the online activities of minors and the op-
2 eration of a technology protection measure
3 with respect to any of its computers with
4 Internet access that—

5 “(I) protects against access
6 through such computers to visual de-
7 pictions that are—

8 “(aa) obscene;

9 “(bb) child pornography; or

10 “(cc) harmful to minors;

11 and

12 “(II) protects against access to a
13 commercial social networking website
14 or chat room unless used for an edu-
15 cational purpose with adult super-
16 vision; and”.

17 (b) CERTIFICATION BY LIBRARIES.—Section
18 254(h)(6)(B) of such Act (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(6)(B)) is
19 amended by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

20 “(i) is enforcing a policy of Internet
21 safety that includes the operation of a
22 technology protection measure with respect
23 to any of its computers with Internet ac-
24 cess that—

1 “(I) protects against access
2 through such computers to visual de-
3 pications that are—

4 “(aa) obscene;

5 “(bb) child pornography; or

6 “(cc) harmful to minors;

7 and

8 “(II) protects against access by
9 minors without parental authorization
10 to a commercial social networking
11 website or chat room, and informs
12 parents that sexual predators can use
13 these websites and chat rooms to prey
14 on children; and”.

15 (c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 254(h)(7) is amended by
16 adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

17 “(J) COMMERCIAL SOCIAL NETWORKING
18 WEBSITES; CHAT ROOMS.—Within 120 days
19 after the date of enactment of the Deleting On-
20 line Predators Act of 2007, the Commission
21 shall by rule define the terms ‘social networking
22 website’ and ‘chat room’ for purposes of this
23 subsection. In determining the definition of a
24 social networking website, the Commission shall

1 take into consideration the extent to which a
2 website—

3 “(i) is offered by a commercial entity;

4 “(ii) permits registered users to create
5 an on-line profile that includes detailed
6 personal information;

7 “(iii) permits registered users to cre-
8 ate an on-line journal and share such a
9 journal with other users;

10 “(iv) elicits highly-personalized infor-
11 mation from users; and

12 “(v) enables communication among
13 users.”.

14 (d) DISABLING DURING ADULT OR EDUCATIONAL
15 USE.—Section 254(h)(5)(D) of such Act is amended—

16 (1) by inserting “OR EDUCATIONAL” after
17 “DURING ADULT” in the heading; and

18 (2) by inserting before the period at the end the
19 following: “or during use by an adult or by minors
20 with adult supervision to enable access for edu-
21 cational purposes pursuant to subparagraph
22 (B)(i)(II)”.

1 **SEC. 4. FTC CONSUMER ALERT ON INTERNET DANGERS TO**
2 **CHILDREN.**

3 (a) INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD PREDATORS
4 AND THE INTERNET.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commis-
6 sion shall—

7 (1) issue a consumer alert regarding the poten-
8 tial dangers to children of Internet child predators,
9 including the potential danger of commercial social
10 networking websites and chat rooms through which
11 personal information about child users of such
12 websites may be accessed by child predators; and

13 (2) establish a website to serve as a resource
14 for information for parents, teachers and school ad-
15 ministrators, and others regarding the potential dan-
16 gers posed by the use of the Internet by children, in-
17 cluding information about commercial social net-
18 working websites and chat rooms through which per-
19 sonal information about child users of such websites
20 may be accessed by child predators.

21 (b) COMMERCIAL SOCIAL NETWORKING
22 WEBSITES.—For purposes of the requirements under sub-
23 section (a), the terms “commercial social networking
24 website” and “chat room” have the meanings given such
25 terms pursuant to section 254(h)(7)(J) of the Commu-

1 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(7)(J)), as
2 amended by this Act.

○