ALLAN EGOLF, MEMBER

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House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA HARRISBURG

December 3, 2003

COMMITTEES

VETERANS' AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MAJORITY VICE CHAIRMAN AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS CHILDREN & YOLITH

APPOINTMENTS:

FIREFIGHTERS & EMERGENCY SERVICES LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS HOUSE POLICY COMMITTEE PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS' MEMORIAL COMMISSION

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Rep. Allan Egol

SUBJECT:

Cosponsorship – Internet Access

Earlier this year the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a federal law that requires public libraries to block Internet access to obscene material and child pornography. With the benefit of the Supreme Court ruling, I will be reintroducing a revised version of H.B. 10 that will require public schools and public libraries to have an acceptable-use policy for Internet access.

Under this bill, public library policies would have to be designed to block any user from accessing obscene material and child pornography and children under 17 from accessing material which is harmful to minors. If a public library fails to adopt a policy that meets this requirement, the Department of Education shall withhold state funding until compliance occurs. School district policies would also have to block any user from accessing any of those three categories of pornography on their computers. Substantially similar legislation passed the House in a previous session but was put on hold pending the court challenge to related federal legislation.

I believe that we need this legislation in order to:

- protect our children against exposure to obscene material, child pornography and other material that is harmful to minors in our schools and public libraries;
- prevent our public libraries from becoming magnets for molesters and others with an unhealthy interest in pornography. It will remove an attraction which draws these people to an environment that places them in close proximity to children;
- protect patrons and employees against the hostile environment created by those who would display sexually graphic images on library and school computer screens;

If you wish to be added as a cosponsor or remain a cosponsor to this legislation, please contact Teri Root through Groupwise or by e-mail at troot@pahousegop.com.

Cosponsors from HB 10 this session: ADOLPH, ARMSTRONG, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BENNINGHOFF, BIRMELIN, CLYMER, COLEMAN, CREIGHTON, CRUZ, DeLUCA, FLICK, FORCIER, GEIST, GEORGE, GOODMAN, GORDNER, HARHAI, HERSHEY, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, KELLER, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, LEDERER, LYNCH, MAITLAND, MARSICO, MELIO, METCALFE, MICOZZIE, PALLONE, PAYNE, ROHRER, SATHER, SCAVELLO, SOLOBAY, STERN, E. Z. TAYLOR, THOMAS, TRUE, WILT and YOUNGBLOOD.

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House of Representatives COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

November 25, 2003

COMMITTEES

VETERANS AFFAIRS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS CHILDREN & YOUTH LABOR RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE

SECURITY & EMERGENCY RESPONSE READINESS, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN

Honorable Dennis M. O'Brien, Chairman House Judiciary Committee Room 100, Main Capitol Building Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Denny:

Would you please schedule for consideration, and help move two very important bills through your Judiciary Committee.

The first one, House Bill 2262 (Child Internet Protection Act) previously passed the House (as House Bill 10) on November 21, 2000 by a vote of 177-15, but died in the Senate for lack of time before sine die.

We have been waiting for a United States Supreme Court decision on a similar federal law before considering House Bill 2262. That decision was recently rendered favorably (see attached), so we are ready to again move House Bill 2262.

The other bill is House Bill 1992, the Child Molester Control Act. I would suggest that at least one hearing be held and that Dr. Phyllis Kuhn, Director of Research at the Hamot Medical Center in Erie be invited to testify for the bill.

I will be available at your request to discuss each of these bills in more detail if you would like.

Sincerely,

Allan Egolf

State Representative

86th Legislative District

AE/tcr enclosure