

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3729

To ensure that prisoners are not permitted unsupervised access to any interactive computer service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 1998

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To ensure that prisoners are not permitted unsupervised access to any interactive computer service.

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 “Stop Trafficking of
5 Pornography in Prisons Act of 1998”.

6 SEC. 2. PRISONER ACCESS.

7 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no agen-
8 cy, officer, or employee of the United States shall imple-
9 ment, or provide any financial assistance to, any Federal
10 program or Federal activity in which a Federal prisoner

1 is allowed access to any interactive computer service with-
2 out the supervision of an official of the Government.

3 **SEC. 3. RECOMMENDED PROHIBITION.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (1) a Minnesota State prisoner, serving 23
6 years for molesting teenage girls, worked for a non-
7 profit work and education program inside the prison,
8 through which the prisoner had unsupervised access
9 to the Internet;

10 (2) the prisoner, through his unsupervised ac-
11 cess to the Internet, trafficked in child pornography
12 over the Internet;

13 (3) Federal law enforcement authorities caught
14 the prisoner with a computer disk containing 280
15 pictures of juveniles engaged in sexually explicit con-
16 duct;

17 (4) a jury found the prisoner guilty of conspir-
18 ing to trade in child pornography and possessing
19 child pornography;

20 (5) the United States District Court for the
21 District of Minnesota sentenced the prisoner to 87
22 months in Federal prison, to be served upon the
23 completion of his 23-year State prison term; and

24 (6) there has been an explosion in the use of
25 the Internet in the United States, further placing

1 our Nation's children at risk of harm and exploi-
2 tation at the hands of predators on the Internet and
3 increasing the ease of trafficking in child pornog-
4 raphy.

5 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress strongly urges
6 State Governors, State legislators, and State prison ad-
7 ministrators to prohibit unsupervised access to the Inter-
8 net by State prisoners.

9 **SEC. 4. SURVEY.**

10 (a) SURVEY.—Not later than 6 months after the date
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall
12 conduct a survey of the States to determine to what extent
13 each State allows prisoners access to any interactive com-
14 puter service and whether such access is supervised by a
15 prison official.

16 (b) REPORT.— The Attorney General shall submit a
17 report to Congress of the findings of the survey conducted
18 pursuant to subsection (a).

19 (c) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section,
20 the term “State” means each of the 50 States and the
21 District of Columbia.

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