



STATE OF CONNECTICUT



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

John A. Danaher III
Commissioner

Lieutenant Edwin S. Henion
Chief of Staff

February 25, 2008

Rep. Michael P. Lawlor, Co-Chairman
Sen. Andrew J. McDonald, Co-Chairman
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

SB 37 AN ACT CONCERNING COMPUTER CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill.

Criminals who use the internet to prey upon children present unique challenges to the law enforcement community. They operate in stealth and are often skilled in technology. The exploitation of youth that occurs can have devastating impact on the children who are victimized. It is essential that the law keep pace with the technology and strategies used by these criminals. Passage of this bill will take some much needed steps to protect children from those who would use sophisticated technology both to exploit our children and to hide behind.

The proposed bill is comprised of three separate components. The intent is to assist in combating crimes against children that occur over the internet. Part one addresses the solicitation of minors on the internet, part two addresses individuals that use the internet to view child pornography, and part three improves procedure for the current ex-parte order statute which is used to help fight crimes against children.

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Section 1 of the bill is aimed at individuals who solicit minors over the internet and then entice them into providing naked images of themselves or into performing sexual acts over webcams or cell phones. This statute would address an area of technology that is not currently covered by statute

Section 2 of this proposal would address the huge loophole of the current statutes, where it is legal to browse and view child pornography without limit as long as it is not "possessed". The proposal would address the act of knowingly viewing the images and make it a crime to knowingly view 50 or more such images within any 48 hour period.

Section 3 of this proposal would make it easier for law enforcement to provide required statutory notification to an individual whose subscriber information has been obtained through an ex-parte order. In most cases after the information has been obtained, contact is made with the individual. It would seem more prudent to supply the individual with notification first hand during this contact rather than later by mail.

Protection of our children requires not only efforts of parents and law enforcement officials but also our elected officials in making sure that our laws keep pace with a rapidly changing world. Passage of this bill is essential to that ongoing effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Danaher III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

John A. Danaher III
COMMISSIONER

Department of Public Safety