

HR 597

2007

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution encouraging the education of parents and
3 children regarding the dangers of sexual solicitation and
4 the abuse of youth.

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6 WHEREAS, nationwide, one in three girls and one in six boys
7 experience some form of sexual abuse before age 18, and

8 WHEREAS, sexual assaults comprise 67 percent of the crimes
9 against juvenile victims, and

10 WHEREAS, by the end of 1998, more than 40 percent of all
11 American homes had computers and 25 percent had Internet access,
12 and children and teenagers constitute one of the fastest-growing
13 groups of Internet users, with an estimated 77 million children
14 having online access in 2005, and

15 WHEREAS, educating parents and children concerning the
16 risks that are associated with the Internet is of paramount
17 importance to the safety of children, and

18 WHEREAS, the Center for Missing and Exploited Children
19 reports that only one-third of the households having Internet
20 access are proactively protecting their children by using
21 filtering or blocking software, and

22 WHEREAS, 75 percent of children are willing to share
23 personal information online about themselves and their family in
24 exchange for goods and services, and

25 WHEREAS, the website of the Department of Law Enforcement
26 reports that only about 25 percent of the youth who have
27 encountered a sexual approach or solicitation while using the
28 Internet told a parent, and

HR 597

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29 WHEREAS, the Crimes Against Children Research Center
30 reports that one in five teenagers in the United States
31 regularly logging on to the Internet reports that he or she has
32 received an unwanted sexual solicitation via the Internet, and

33 WHEREAS, research indicates that 69 percent of parents and
34 76 percent of youth do not know where or how to report incidents
35 of sexual solicitation on the Internet, NOW, THEREFORE,

36

37 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
38 Florida:

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40 That the House of Representatives encourages parents and
41 children to learn about the incidence of sexual abuse and the
42 risks associated with online communication and urges parents to
43 learn how to protect their children while they are online and
44 how and where to report cases of sexual solicitation and
45 exploitation which occur over the Internet.