

By Senator Wilson

33-345-07

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Senate Resolution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Crimes Against Children Research Center reports that one in five teenagers in the United States regularly logging on to the Internet reports that he or she

1 has received an unwanted sexual solicitation via the Internet,
2 and

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

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8 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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10 That the Florida Senate encourages parents and children
11 to learn about the incidence of sexual abuse and the risks
12 associated with online communication and urges parents to
13 learn how to protect their children while they are online and
14 how and where to report cases of sexual solicitation and
15 exploitation which occur over the Internet.

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