

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 602

To develop the next generation of parental control technology.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2007

Mr. PRYOR introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To develop the next generation of parental control technology.

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 “Child Safe Viewing
5 Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Video programming has a direct impact on
9 a child’s perception of safe and reasonable behavior.

1 (2) Children imitate actions they witness on
2 video programming, including language, drug use,
3 and sexual conduct.

4 (3) Studies indicate that the strong appeal of
5 video programming erodes the ability of parents to
6 develop responsible attitudes and behavior in their
7 children.

8 (4) The average American child watches 4
9 hours of television each day.

10 (5) Seventy-five percent of adults surveyed be-
11 lieve that television content marketed toward chil-
12 dren should be subject to compulsory principles.

13 (6) Ninety-nine and nine-tenths percent of all
14 consumer complaints logged by the Federal Commu-
15 nications Commission in the first quarter of 2006
16 regarding radio and television broadcasting were be-
17 cause of obscenity, indecency, and profanity.

18 (7) There is a compelling government interest
19 in empowering parents to limit their children's expo-
20 sure to harmful television content.

21 (8) Section 1 of the Communications Act of
22 1934 requires the Federal Communications Commis-
23 sion to promote the safety of life and property
24 through the use of wire and radio communications.

1 (9) In the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
2 Congress authorized Parental Choice in Television
3 Programming and the V-Chip. Congress further di-
4 rected action on alternative blocking technology as
5 new video technology advanced.

6 **SEC. 3. EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVE PARENTAL CON-**
7 **TROL TECHNOLOGIES.**

8 (a) **RULEMAKING PROCEEDING REQUIRED.**—Not
9 later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this
10 Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall ini-
11 tiate a proceeding to consider measures to encourage or
12 require the use of advanced blocking technologies that are
13 compatible with various communications devices or plat-
14 forms.

15 (b) **CONTENT OF PROCEEDING.**—In conducting the
16 proceeding required under subsection (a), the Federal
17 Communications Commission shall consider advanced
18 blocking technologies that—

19 (1) may be appropriate across a wide variety of
20 distribution platforms, including wired, wireless, and
21 Internet platforms;

22 (2) may be appropriate across a wide variety of
23 devices capable of transmitting or receiving video or
24 audio programming, including television sets, DVD

1 players, VCRs, cable set top boxes, satellite receivers,
2 and wireless devices;

3 (3) can filter language based upon information
4 in closed captioning;

5 (4) operate independently of ratings pre-assigned
6 by the creator of such video or audio programming;
7 and

8 (5) may be effective in enhancing the ability of
9 a parent to protect his or her child from indecent or
10 objectionable programming, as determined by such
11 parent.

12 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “advanced
13 blocking technologies” means technologies that can
14 improve or enhance the ability of a parent to protect his
15 or her child from any indecent or objectionable video or
16 audio programming, as determined by such parent, that
17 is transmitted through the use of wire, wireless, or radio
18 communication.

○