

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 526

Whereas, The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a vital lifeline to low-income families, working poor households, senior citizens and persons with disabilities in meeting their energy needs; and

Whereas, Low-income families, the elderly and many working poor Pennsylvanians face a continuing energy crisis with energy burdens that will exceed 15% of their household incomes; and

Whereas, The Federal funding for LIHEAP significantly eases the home energy affordability crisis faced by millions of Americans; and

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Whereas, The total elimination of funding for LIHEAP will threaten the continuation of the Pennsylvania program that is the foundation for providing a modest amount of energy security for low-income Pennsylvanians; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the United States to appropriate at least \$1.3 billion for fiscal year 1999-2000 and an advance appropriation of at least \$1.3 billion for fiscal year 2000-2001 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program; and be it further

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Congress of the United States to reauthorize the LIHEAP program at authorization levels enacted in the Human Services Amendments of 1994 (Public Law 103-252) to ensure that this program more adequately meets the needs of low-income households.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DODD:

S. 2648. A bill to protect children with respect to the Internet, to increase the criminal and civil penalties associated with certain crimes relating to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 2649. A bill to enact the Passaic River Basin Flood Management Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2650. A bill to give gifted and talented students the opportunity to develop their capabilities; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. FAIRCLOTH:

S. 2651. A bill to provide for a Presidential Budget in the Fiscal Year 2000 with Spending Reductions that will offset the emergency spending for Fiscal Year 1999; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 2652. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to improve the safety of exported pesticides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. LOTT):

S. 2653. A bill to require the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements to report to Congress by April 1, 1999, on the availability of certain wool fabric, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2654. A bill to provide for a judicial and administration remedy for disputes arising under certain agreements with foreign entities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2655. A bill to limit the amounts of expenditures for the national defense budget function for fiscal years 1999 and 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. Res. 312. A resolution to amend Senate Resolution 209 in order to provide budget levels in the Senate for purposes of fiscal year 1999 and include the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. Res. 313. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the brutal killing of Mr. Matthew Shepard; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. Res. 314. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make adjustments to payments made to skilled nursing facilities under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD:

S. 2648. A bill to protect children with respect to the Internet, to increase the criminal and civil penalties associated with certain crimes relating to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

KEEPING THE INTERNET DECENT AND SAFE (K.I.D.S.) ACT

• Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today, I introduce the Keeping the Internet Decent and Safe (K.I.D.S.) Act. This legislation would give parents and educators tools to protect our children while they use the Internet. Moreover, this bill would give law enforcement officials the ability to make the Internet a safer environment for everyone.

Unfortunately, while innocently "surfing" the web, many of our children are accidentally encountering graphic and sexually explicit images. They type in search terms as innocuous as "toys"—only to find inappropriate images on their display terminal. According to Wired magazine, there are currently some 28,000 web sites containing hard- and soft-core pornography on the Internet. And that number is growing at an alarming rate. It is estimated that more than 30 pornographic sites are added to the Internet each day.

In addition, the Internet now provides the "strangers" we have always warned our children about with almost unlimited access to our children. Historically, sexual predators have sought children wherever they gather—in school yards, playgrounds and malls. Today, children hang out in cyberspace. This provides the sexual predator with an almost limitless number of opportunities to exploit children because they can prowl from family room to classroom to bedroom with virtual anonymity. Clearly, this is a problem that is only going to grow worse unless we work aggressively to ensure that the Internet is a safe environment.

The bill I am introducing today would build upon provisions authored by Senator COATS and myself which were adopted as part of S. 442, the Internet Tax Freedom Act. The provisions are designed to provide some safety for young people who are being exposed today to the alarming amount of pornography on the Internet. Specifically, my amendment will require that Internet access providers make screening software available—either for a fee or no charge—to customers purchasing Internet access services, and Senator COATS' amendment establishes specific measures that commercial operators of sexually explicit sites must take to restrict access to children under the age of 17.

I am pleased that these provisions of the Internet Tax Freedom Act were passed yesterday and today by both houses of Congress as part of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1999, and look forward to the President signing them into law. Yet, it is clear that our work is not done.

I was very disturbed by a recent article in the The Washington Post which stated that law enforcement officials in the United States and abroad had uncovered an international child pornography ring in which hundreds of people were using the Internet to trade thousands of sexually explicit images of children. More than 200 ring members were arrested in the United States and 13 other countries. The U.S. Customs Service seized computers from American suspects in 22 states, including Connecticut.

That is why today I introduce the Keeping the Internet Decent and Safe (K.I.D.S.) Act. In this age of the Internet, our children have unprecedented access to educational materials via the computer. However, this wonderful technology has also brought with it a dark side for our children, and we as a nation have an obligation to ensure that our children are able to learn, grow, and play in an environment free from harm. My bill would give parents, teachers and law enforcement officers the tools they need to help protect and guide our children, as they seek knowledge and wholesome entertainment on the Internet.

First, my bill would make it possible for law enforcement officials to detain