To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require recipients of universal service support for schools and libraries to protect minors from commercial social networking websites and chat rooms.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. KIRK, and [see attached list of cosponsors]) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on __________

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require recipients of universal service support for schools and libraries to protect minors from commercial social networking websites and chat rooms.

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 “Deleting Online Preda-
5 tors Act of 2006”.

May 9, 2006 (4:36 PM)
SEC. 2. CERTIFICATIONS TO INCLUDE PROTECTIONS AGAINST COMMERCIAL SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES AND CHAT ROOMS.

(a) Certification by Schools.—Section 254(h)(5)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(5)(B)) is amended by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) is enforcing a policy of Internet safety for minors that includes monitoring the online activities of minors and the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that—

“(I) protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are—

“(aa) obscene;

“(bb) child pornography; or

“(cc) harmful to minors;

and

“(II) prohibits access to a commercial social networking website or chat room through which minors—

“(aa) may easily access or be presented with obscene or indecent material;
“(bb) may easily be subject to unlawful sexual advances, unlawful requests for sexual favors, or repeated offensive comments of a sexual nature from adults; or

“(cc) may easily access other material that is harmful to minors; and”.

(b) Certification by Libraries.—Section 254(h)(6)(B) of such Act (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(6)(B)) is amended by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) is enforcing a policy of Internet safety that includes the operation of a technology protection measure with respect to any of its computers with Internet access that—

“(I) protects against access through such computers to visual depictions that are—

“(aa) obscene;

“(bb) child pornography; or

“(cc) harmful to minors; and
“(II) prohibits access by minors without parental authorization to a commercial social networking website or chat room through which minors—

“(aa) may easily access or be presented with obscene or indecent material;

“(bb) may easily be subject to unlawful sexual advances, unlawful requests for sexual favors, or repeated offensive comments of a sexual nature from adults; or

“(cc) may easily access other material that is harmful to minors; and”.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Section 254(h)(7) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(J) COMMERCIAL SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES.—The term ‘commercial social networking website’ means a commercially operated Internet website that—

“(i) allows users to create web pages or profiles that provide information about
themselves and are available to other
users; and

“(ii) offers a mechanism for commu-
ication with other users, such as a forum,
chat room, email, or instant messenger.

“(K) Chat rooms.—The term ‘chat
rooms’ means Internet websites through which
a number of users can communicate in real
time via text and that allow messages to be al-
most immediately visible to all other users or to
a designated segment of all other users.”.

(d) Disabling During Adult or Educational
Use.—Section 254(h)(5)(D) of such Act is amended—

(1) by inserting “OR EDUCATIONAL” after
“DURING ADULT” in the heading; and

(2) by inserting before the period at the end the
following: “or during use by an adult or by minors
with adult supervision to enable access for edu-
cational purposes”.

(e) Establishment of Advisory Board.—The
Federal Communications Commission shall establish an
advisory board, which shall consist of 8 members ap-
pointed by the Chairman of the Commission. Four of such
members shall be representative of the private sector and
four of such members shall be representative of the Com-
mission, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Crimes against Children Research Center, school boards, and primary and secondary school educators, respectively. The Commission shall provide administrative and clerical support to the advisory board, but members of the board shall serve without compensation. The advisory board shall be terminated at the direction of the Chairman of the Commission.

(f) PUBLICATION.—After consultation with the advisory board established under subsection (e) and appropriate agencies with experience regarding procedures and actions to prevent minors from being target by adults for predatory behavior, exploitation, or illegal actions, the Federal Communications Commission shall annually publish a list of commercial social networking websites and chat rooms that have been shown to allow sexual predators easy access to personal information of, and contact with, children.

SEC. 3. FTC CONSUMER ALERT ON INTERNET DANGERS TO CHILDREN.

(a) INFORMATION REGARDING CHILD PREDATORS AND THE INTERNET.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall—

(1) issue a consumer alert regarding the potential dangers to children of Internet child predators,
including the potential danger of commercial social
networking websites and chat rooms through which
personal information about child users of such
websites may be accessed by child predators; and

(2) establish a website with a distinctive Uni-
form Resource Locator to serve as a resource for in-
formation for parents, teachers and school adminis-
trators, and others regarding the potential dangers
posed by the use of the Internet by children, includ-
ing information about commercial social networking
websites and chat rooms through which personal in-
formation about child users of such websites may be
accessed by child predators.

(b) COMMERCIAL SOCIAL NETWORKING

WEBSITES.—For purposes of the requirements under sub-
section (a), the terms “commercial social networking
website” and “chat room” have the meanings given such
terms in section 254(h)(7) of the Communications Act of
1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)(7)), as amended by this Act.