



Memorandum in Support
Electronic Security and Targeting of Online Predators Act

(February 12, 2008)

A. 9859a (Lentol)
S. 6875a (Skelos)

Attorney General
Program Bill #4

AN ACT to amend the correction law, the penal law, the executive law and the state finance law, in relation to the protection of people who use Internet services from convicted sex offenders

AeA is the nation's largest high-tech trade association and represents over 1.8 million high-tech workers in more than 2,500 IT sector companies which span the high-technology spectrum, from software, semiconductors, medical devices and computers to Internet technology, advanced electronics and telecommunications systems and services. The Electronic Security and Targeting of Online Predators Act (“e-Stop”) establishes robust protections against sexual predators so that New Yorkers, especially children, can more safely use the Internet.

Protecting children from online threats is a top priority of the high-tech industry. Our member companies take this obligation seriously and devote significant resources to ensure a safe online environment for all users, particularly children. As a result, our industry has implemented technical solutions like parental controls, worked with non-profit organizations, and with law enforcement officials to best protect children. We believe that there is no single solution for best protecting children online. Rather online safety requires a multi-faceted approach involving ever evolving technology, public education and partnerships with law enforcement and other groups to keep the Internet safe for children.

e-Stop takes an important step in addressing the law enforcement needs to help combat cyber predators. First and foremost, e-Stop prohibits dangerous convicted sex offenders while on probation or parole from using the Internet to: access pornography; access commercial social networking websites; communicate with minors in most circumstances; and communicate with other individuals or groups for the purpose of promoting sexual relations with persons under the age of eighteen. The legislation further authorizes sentencing courts to impose as a condition of probation other reasonable limitations on a sex offender’s Internet use as it determines to be necessary or appropriate.

e-Stop also brings Megan’s Law into the Internet Age, by requiring convicted sex offenders to submit any Internet identifiers they use to the Division of Criminal Justice Services (“DCJS”), which may, in turn, provide such information to online services so it can be used to prescreen or remove sex offenders from our online services.

We appreciate the efforts of you and your colleagues to address this important issue. Now, is the time to work together.