

Proponent of SB-56. February 2016.

Chairman Barker and honorable members of the Members of the House Judiciary Committee.

I stand to speak in support of SB 56. Thank you for your service to our state

SB56 — Removing affirmative defense to promotion to minors of material harmful to minors for public, private or parochial schools.

“The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet... Schools and libraries subject to CIPA may not receive the discounts offered by the E-rate program unless they certify that they have an Internet safety policy that includes technology protection measures. The protection measures must block or filter Internet access to pictures that are: (a) obscene; (b) child pornography; or (c) harmful to minors... Schools subject to CIPA have two additional certification requirements: 1) their Internet safety policies must include monitoring the online activities of minors; and 2) as required by the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act, they must provide for educating minors about appropriate online behavior...”

<http://transition.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/cipa.pdf>

With the popular 1:1 initiative which is also known as 1:1 computing, the school our children attended gave each student electronic devices (iPads and laptops). Though the school had a district approved internet safety policy and a filtering system, both of our children and other children have been exposed to obscene, pornographic and harmful images at school.

- In two of the Junior High classrooms, the teachers repeatedly left the children unmonitored on their iPads. Unknown to the teacher, my son was accidentally exposed to traumatic pornographic material. (see <http://www.morningsun.net/article/20150926/NEWS/150929909>)

Though at the time (September 2015), the principal said that he was not aware of any other student being exposed to online pornography, we were aware that our high school son had opened an obscene pop-up ad (which offered him another link) while surfing the internet during free time at school. He knew the link was unsafe and closed out the ad. Despite our communication with the school our children and others continued to be exposed to obscene, pornographic and harmful images and media during school hours.

- In the Dec. school board meeting, the technology director agreed that some students were accessing pornographic images, but said he could do nothing about it. The school board agreed. Because of the harm to my children, I spoke to a lawyer who said the school was protected.

By removing “affirmative defense”, SB 56 would remove “protection” and give schools the information they need to know that they must protect children from obscene, pornographic & harmful images & media at school.

Thank you,

Suzanne Myers Wickerd