



Fighting filth, protecting children

With more than 420 million pornographic Web pages in existence, it has become increasingly difficult to effectively filter out material that is harmful to minors, but a new hope is on the horizon. On June 1, 2005, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which oversees the assignment of domain names such as .org or .com, created a new top-level domain: the .xxx domain. In doing so it reversed its earlier November 2000 decision, which had been vehemently criticized by some on Capitol Hill such as Representative Fred Upton, who called the domain the best means “of protecting our kids from the awful, awful filth, which is sometimes spread on the Internet.”

Now Congress needs to take the next step and protect minors by pushing smut peddlers off frequently used, top-level domains like .com and onto .xxx. Congress can do this by passing the Michael Reagan Online Protection Act, which would require all pornographic Web sites to relocate to the .xxx domain and establish penalties for those that do not comply.

With porn confined to the .xxx domain, parents will be able to purchase software, that blocks all porn sites. No longer will parents constantly have to worry about monitoring their children, who might stray onto such sites. The rationale for this bill was best captured by Senator Joseph Liebermann, who thought it was only fair that adult webmasters should have to “abide by the same standard as the proprietor of an X-rated movie theater.” Throughout modern history, there has often been a time lag as the law struggles to catch up with technological change. Now the government needs to take action to clean up the Internet, instead of letting the problem fester.

The Internet should not be a virtual pig pen where anything goes; it too should be subject to the same kinds of laws we already have in place for the rest of society, namely obscenity laws. Getting legislation that cordons off virtual porn is one of the highest priorities of the National Committee for Faith and Family (NCFE).

Mission

Founded by Mary Beth Brown, the National Committee for Faith and Family (NCFE) is a grassroots, bipartisan organization for concerned citizens who feel that Americans need to restore decency, morality and the sanctity of family. It is our goal to raise public and political awareness of the filth and anti-Christian bigotry in America today.



National Committee for Faith & Family

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Chairman MICHAEL REAGAN

Nine out of 10 children between the ages of 8 and 16 have viewed pornography on the Internet. In most cases, the sex sites were accessed unintentionally when a child, often in the process of doing homework, used a seemingly innocent sounding word to search for information or pictures (London School of Economics, January 2002).

In June of 2004, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Children's Online Protection Act (COPA) by a vote of 5 to 4. The day the decision was handed down, I told my friend, researcher Brannon Howse, that the best way to address the problem the Act had been intended to solve would be to require that all pornography sites be relocated to a special domain with the designation ".xxx" or ".adult." Brannon immediately began a study of the idea, working with Steve Crampton, Chief Counsel for the American Family Association Center for Law & Policy. Once Steve and Brannon drafted the necessary legislation, they asked to call it the Michael Reagan Online Child Protection Act and requested that I be the spokesperson for the bill. I agreed to use my personal story of being repeatedly molested at the age of eight by a day camp leader to alert Americans to the importance of this legislation. The sick man who mistreated me not only molested me but also took pictures to boot.

Pornography – nowhere more readily available than on the Internet – is the primary way child molesters desensitize children and break down their natural innocence and inhibitions. Instituting a special designation for porn sites will greatly bolster anyone's ability to protect children from Internet pornography.

We have carefully crafted this legislation to keep the courts from striking it down. The difference between our bill and the other .xxx proposals is that our bill makes it mandatory that all porn sites move off of their .com site and puts real teeth into the penalty provisions. In addition, our bill empowers Americans to take legal action to enforce .xxx and punish those porn sites that do not comply; they don't need to wait for reluctant prosecutors to take action.

With the help of people like Mary Beth Brown and the National Committee for Faith and Family, we can see this legislation pass Congress. Please contact your U.S. Senators and Representative and ask them to support the Michael Reagan Online Child Protection Act.



Founder MARY BETH BROWN

If you would like to help the National Committee for Faith and Family continue its work, please call us toll free at 1-866-872-0811. God Bless You.



Hello, my name is Mary Beth Brown. As the director of the National Committee for Faith and Family, I wanted to let you know about my background in dealing with faith and family issues and why I think these issues are critical to sustaining the health of our nation.

I cherish my faith and family more than anything else. My Christian faith has provided ballast for me in life. It is the sure thing I cling to when all else goes awry. More than being a source of strength in time of trouble, my faith is also a source of tremendous joy. Nothing pleases me more than my faith, which promises that life does not have to be limited to this earth with all its rollercoaster ups and downs. One day we will find eternal peace in heaven. Similarly, my family provides me with both strength and joy. My husband, Floyd Brown, is my help mate. My children light up my life with the joy they bring. I chose to give up my career so that I could serve as a full-time mother to my children, nurturing them and imparting to them the principles of my faith.

As such, I would have remained – had not these two things of utmost importance to me, my faith and my family, increasingly come under assault in society. I came to realize that I could not separate my home completely from the pernicious influences of the outside world. I realized I could no longer be complacent; I would have to forge into the public arena. I have fought for faith and family as a board member of the Clare Booth Luce Public Policy Institute, I founded the Mothers Campaign for Family in Washington state, and recently I wrote the book *Hand of Providence* about the enormous importance of faith in the life of the late President Ronald Reagan.

As director of the National Committee for Faith and Family, I plan to continue fighting for the values we share. The gradual erosion of faith and family in the public sphere has gone on for far too long. Over the past few decades America has become too secularized. Our country has turned away from the faith of our forefathers and our citizens have become more and more divorced from the social groups to

which we used to belong, the most significant of these groups being family and church. These trends can be confirmed by a whole litany of events that have taken place, beginning in the '60s and continuing on since then. Although I am sure many of you are aware of them, I will just remind you of these trends and events. Supreme Court decisions have prohibited state-sanctioned Bible reading and prayer in schools, legitimized abortion, and struck down anti-sodomy laws. These court decisions usually contravene the will of the people as expressed through their state legislature in statutes. Growing cultural permissiveness toward cohabitation and previously unmentionable topics such as homosexuality is another sign of how much times have changed. Recent signs of this erosion include the repeated calls for legalizing euthanasia and homosexual civil unions or even full-blown homosexual marriages. The shift toward individualism also has been dramatic as people find themselves more and more often "bowling alone," as Robert Putnam puts it in his book of the same title; no longer are they as attached to the social groups to which they used to belong. First and foremost, this erosion needs to be halted. Once the violence that is being committed against our nation halts, only then can we start the healing and let faith back into the public arena.

In this majority Christian country, whose people believe by a whopping 82 percent that Jesus Christ was God or the Son of God (according to a Newsweek poll), religion should not be excluded from the public sphere by leftist groups and their friends in the courts seeking to subvert the democratic process.

Here at the Committee for Faith and Family we look forward to reversing these trends with a potent one-two punch of prayer and legwork. I look forward to keeping you posted with regular updates on our progress. And please remember me and my family in your prayers.

Yours truly, Mary Beth Brown