



## KIDS. ELECTRONIC DEVICES. hardcore pornography.

It's a devastating problem, but one with a built-in solution. **So let's act now.**

All too often when using mobile devices, children have easy access to hardcore pornographic videos and explicit content that harms their brains and fuels addiction. This pornography can depict incest, racism, and extreme violence.

We must protect our children from this damaging XXX content — *and we can.*

### Require Smart Phones and Tablets to Switch Pornography Filters ON Upon Activation for Minors

Virtually all devices have built-in filters to block pornography and **know the age of users**, but they **aren't enabled, even when devices are activated by minors**. By mandating that cell phones **enable existing filters for minors**, parents can more easily protect their children from destructive content online.

### LET'S ACT NOW: Pass the Children's Device Protection Bill

Manufacturers (meaning Apple, Google, and Amazon) already have filtering capabilities and parental control software available on smartphones and tablets, but they are overly complicated and cumbersome for parents to navigate. The Children's Device Protection Bill **requires manufacturers to enable existing filters for minors**, instead of **defaulting to "OFF"** as it is now. The bill will require a password to be activated for the filter, easily allowing parents to switch the filter on and off.

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## HOW THE CHILDREN'S DEVICE PROTECTION BILL WORKS:

- By activating filters on the device itself, instead of the network, the filter protects a minor online wherever the device is used.
- Existing technology can determine the age of the user at activation; the filter will be activated for minors, but not for adults.
- This legislation recognizes the serious harm that online pornography exposure causes to children because their brains are undeveloped.
- If an adult uses a minor's phone, the filter can easily be toggled on or off with a set password.

**Default to safety** on the internet to protect children? This is just common sense. We can protect children from exposure to harmful material online without eroding adults' right to free speech.

# CHILDREN'S DEVICE PROTECTION BILL: FAQ

## Why is this bill needed?

This bill greatly simplifies what is now a complex and cumbersome process for families, some of whom are unaware that filtering options even exist on their devices or do not have the technical know-how to activate them. It also recognizes that not all children have the privilege of parents who are involved in their digital well-being.

With this simple solution, we will prevent early exposure to potentially life-altering sexually explicit content for children, who have no way of comprehending hardcore pornography.

## How does pornography harm children?

Most parents don't need data to tell them it is unhealthy for children to view the violent and extreme hardcore pornography videos widely available on digital devices today. But, here are a few stats:

- More than half of American children own a smartphone by age 11.
- A study of university students found that 93% of boys and 62% of girls had seen Internet pornography during adolescence, usually stumbling on it unintentionally.
- A meta-analysis of 37 studies found that exposure to violent or rape pornography increased a child's odds of experiencing sexual exploitation by nearly three times.
- Research shows that children are more susceptible than adults to addictions and to developmental effects on the brain.
- Internet pornography use is linked to increases in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, and a greater likelihood of engaging in risky sexual behavior such as hookups, multiple sex partners, anal sex, group sex, and using substances during sex as young adolescents.

## Won't kids find other ways to access pornography?

This is a widespread problem that can't be solved with the snap of a finger, but activating device filters is a simple and significant step in the right direction. We often take actions to protect children that aren't 100% effective, but that doesn't stop us from trying. Think of all the hours children spend on digital devices each day, and this decision becomes a no-brainer.

## Does the model law meet constitutional free speech requirements?

As long as adults have access, the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized that the state has a compelling interest to restrict children's exposure to pornographic material. Courts have recognized that parents are entitled to laws that support their ability to safeguard children from harm.

In *Ashcroft v. ACLU* (2004), the Supreme Court found that device-level filters satisfy the First Amendment.

## How is the law enforced?

While it is highly likely that device manufacturers will comply with the law, parents, guardians, and state attorneys general will be able to bring civil actions against device manufacturers that do not comply.



NATIONAL CENTER ON  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

**PROTECT**  
young eyes  
CREATING SAFER DIGITAL SPACES

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