

By: West

H.C.R. No. 14

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, According to a sample survey of the nearly 24
2 million school-aged children that were on-line regularly in 1999,
3 roughly one in five received a sexual solicitation; remarkably,
4 fewer than 10 percent of these sexual solicitations were ever
5 reported to authorities; and

6 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, as the Internet has revolutionized
7 access to information, sharing of ideas, and global communication,
8 it also has provided a vast landscape for the machinations of sexual
9 predators; the United States Customs Service reports there are an
10 estimated 100,000 websites involved in some way with child
11 pornography, and arrests, indictments, and convictions for
12 possession of child pornography transported across borders have
13 climbed steadily since 1992, doubling several times during the last
14 10 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Among the websites charging users to view images of
16 children in suggestive poses are those that have become known as
17 exploitive child modeling sites; where legitimate child modeling
18 websites market the talent of the model, exploitive child modeling
19 features compromising visual depictions of children without a
20 direct or even indirect purpose of marketing an actual product
21 other than the images of the minor; and

22 WHEREAS, The anonymous nature of communicating through the
23 Internet allows pedophiles to deceitfully contact and personally
24 interact with these child models, providing opportunity to develop

1 on-line relationships and thereby increasing the chances of
2 aggressive solicitations for meeting in person; and

3 WHEREAS, More than 70 percent of convicted pedophiles have
4 accessed child pornography or exploitive child modeling websites as
5 a means of sexual gratification, and the very operators of these
6 sites, while defending their legitimacy, admit that pedophiles are
7 likely frequent visitors; and

8 WHEREAS, Legislation is now before the 107th Congress that
9 would protect children's opportunities to develop legitimate
10 modeling careers and at the same time protect them from
11 exploitation at the hands of website operators; now, therefore, be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to enact
15 the Child Modeling Exploitation Prevention Act of 2002; and, be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
18 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
19 the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the
20 senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the
21 Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this
22 resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a
23 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.