

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*96-45
interest*

5357

11/24/99
DATE

RECEIVED

DEC 17 1999

MEMORANDUM

FOR:

FROM:

HELEN S. CASTLEMAN #S-C
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AGENCY LIAISON

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

SUBJECT:

REFERRAL OF CASEWORK IN BULK

An unprecedented number of individuals still write the President and the First Lady for help. I know that this has meant a far greater volume of mail for your agency than ever before. I appreciate your continuing cooperation in our efforts to be as responsive as possible.

The attached letters have not received a White House Staff response. I am forwarding this correspondence to your agency for any appropriate action.

Please return the original incoming letter, along with a copy of any written or telephone response, to me at the address below. I also would appreciate your sending a copy of your agency's log of the names and addresses of these individuals. Any misreferrals should be returned to my office. If you have questions you can reach me at 202/456-7486.

Mrs. Helen S. Castleman
Director, Office of Agency Liaison
Room 6, OEOB
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20502

Again, thank you for your continuing help.

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE

AUG-23-1999 11:24

OFC OF THE DEP SECY

202 401 9027 P.01/02



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of the Deputy Secretary
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Telephone Number: (202) 401-2997

Fax Number: (202) 401-9027

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: DeAnn

ORGANIZATION: _____

PHONE: _____

FAX: 456-7028

FROM: Ann O'Leary

COMMENTS:

Will also send by email

TOTAL PAGES (Including Cover): _____



Internet Filtering. The House bill contains an amendment that would require elementary and secondary schools and libraries receiving universal-service assistance to select, install, and use filters that block access to child pornographic and obscene materials, as well as materials deemed harmful to minors, on computers with Internet access and to certify to the Federal Communications Commission that they have done so. A school or library that fails to meet these requirements would be "liable to repay immediately the full amount of all universal service assistance" it received after the date of its failure to comply.

I strongly support the goal of protecting children from inappropriate material on the Internet. However, not only would the House Bill raise important constitutional questions and disproportionately burden our poorest and most rural schools, we should not force our schools and libraries to employ Federally-mandated technological solutions that may not be effective, failing to block access to material that is inappropriate while, at the same time, blocking material that may be entirely appropriate for educational or other uses. Just as schools must develop technology plans to participate in our Technology Literacy Challenge Fund program, I believe that schools and libraries that benefit from universal-service assistance should be required to develop, in consultation with parents and other interested parties, and implement a plan to protect children from inappropriate material on the Internet--and that we should allow schools and libraries to adopt the approach that they determine best meets the needs of their students and communities. Such an alternative approach might include signed responsible use "compacts" between schools and libraries, on the one hand, and students and their parents, on the other, that are integrated into broader lessons about personal and civic responsibility. Accordingly, I support a provision that would require every school and library that receives assistance from the Universal Service Fund to certify that it has developed a plan to protect schoolchildren from inappropriate material on the Internet.