

Richard O'Neil  
503A Caribbean Drive  
Key Largo, FL 33037-4342

December 21, 2006

Dear Kevin Martin,

As a former school teacher, I understand the importance of internet access to students in our schools. It is especially important to the lower socio-economic high school such as Homestead High School, where I taught.

The Internet has become an integral part of American life and will only become more important in the future. That is why all Americans, especially American children, need access to Internet service that's fast, free and family-friendly.

Unfortunately, current prices for broadband in the United States are among the highest in the world and students from too many households have limited or no connectivity. No American child should be left behind because existing broadband options are not affordable.

Furthermore, the government should be working with business leaders to make sure that all students have access that is fast, reliable and as safe as possible. Parents and teachers are currently saddled with the burden of trying to protect children from indecent content on the Internet. Network level filtration of indecent content is the best solution available to ensure that children cannot access explicit Web sites, allowing parents and teachers more freedom to utilize the educational resources available online.

Implementation of a proposal now before the FCC to provide fast, free, and family-friendly universal broadband access program, like that supported by the Coalition for Free Broadband Now, is a necessary step in protecting our children online while at the same time ensuring that American school children, parents and teachers have affordable access to the educational resources available online.

I hope you will support this important access for our children.

Sincerely,

Richard J. O'Neil  
305-451-4825

CC: Secretary Spellings  
Michael Copps  
Jonathan Adelstein  
Deborah Taylor Tate  
Robert McDowell  
Representative Ros-Lehtinen  
Senator Martinez  
Senator Nelson

