For Immediate Release
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Rep. Pitts introduces bill to protect children from peer-to-peer porn

Washington—Congressman Joe Pitts (R, PA-16) today introduced the Protecting Children from Peer-to-Peer Pornography (P4) Act. The P4 Act gives parents the tools they need to protect their children from pornography and threats to privacy posed by peer-to-peer file trading networks.

"**Millions of people are using peer-to-peer software at any given time. About forty percent of them are children**," said Rep. Pitts. "**Unfortunately, pedophiles and pornographers use these networks to distribute pornography. If a child using this software wants to download a file, he or she can type in an innocent key word and inadvertently download pornography**."

In March 2003, the General Accounting Office (GAO) and the House Committee on Government Reform found that: pornography is readily available and accessible on P2P networks; children are easily exposed to pornography while using P2P programs; and the filters available to parents do sufficiently address the threat to their children's' safety.

"**Our legislation gives parents the tools they need to protect their children from pornography and threats to privacy posed by peer-to-peer file trading networks. By working together to protect children, we are building a broad and bipartisan coalition**," concluded Rep. Pitts.

The P4 Act regulates P2P software, and requires the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") to adopt regulations that require P2P distributors to:

- Give notice of the threats posed by P2P software;
- Distribute P2P software to a minor only with a parent's consent, and not when parents have used a "do not install" beacon to indicate their desire to avoid P2P software;
- Comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) when collecting information from children under age 13;
- Ensure that the software can be readily uninstalled; and
- Ensure that the user's computer not be commandeered as a "super node," and not disable or circumvent security or protective software, without consent.

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