

# American Library Association

## Washington Office Newsline

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*In This Issue: URGENT ACTION ALERT: Please call Representatives TODAY and ask them to oppose DOPA*

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URGENT Action Needed:

This afternoon, the House of Representatives debated H.R. 5319, the Deleting Online Predators Act (DOPA). A vote will occur in the next few hours.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES THIS AFTERNOON

and ask that they oppose HR 5319. The Capitol Switchboard number is: 202-224-3121.

Background:

DOPA is sponsored by Rep. Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and supported by the House Republican Suburban Caucus. It would require that, as a condition of receiving E-Rate support, all schools and libraries block access to social networking websites and chat rooms.

The bill raises a number of issues:

- 1) Local school districts and libraries should determine what content should flow into schools and libraries. Federal mandate over content control is very problematic.
- 2) Districts and libraries already have the power to block access to social networking sites and chat rooms and a number of them have already done so.
- 3) DOPA imposes yet another burden on schools and libraries participating in the E-rate and may deter many from continuing to participate.

4) This bill paints an unflattering and distorted view of the Internet as a whole, serving to scare away parents, students, teachers and librarians from making use of all its resources.

Last week, YALSA Executive Director Beth Yoke testified on DOPA before the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet on DOPA. You can read her testimony here: [http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/techinttele/DOPA\\_testimony.pdf](http://www.ala.org/ala/washoff/WOissues/techinttele/DOPA_testimony.pdf).



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U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202-225-3121

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