

House Concurrent Resolution No. 32

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES FRAME (Sponsor), LAMPE, SCHIEFFER,
CASEY AND LeVOTA (Co-sponsors).

0759L.011

1 **Whereas**, millions of people are now going online to exchange electronic mail and
2 instant messages, participate in chat groups, post and read messages in newsgroups, surf the
3 world wide web, and many other online activities. Children are no exception and in fact, they
4 are more likely to be online than adults; and

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6 **Whereas**, personal computers are no longer the only method used for accessing the
7 Internet. Children can go online from personal computers at home, a friend's house, in school,
8 a library, club, or cafe. Many game consoles can be connected to the Internet and used for
9 chatting and other online interaction. It is also possible to access the Internet on mobile devices
10 such as cellular phones and other handheld devices. Children don't have to be in the company
11 of responsible adults to use the Internet; and

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13 **Whereas**, in almost half of all households at least one child uses the Internet. By
14 the time they are teenagers, nearly three out of four children are online. Teenagers who use the
15 Internet are more likely to log on at school, which younger children who are online are more
16 likely to log on at home; and

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18 **Whereas**, the widespread use of the Internet by children underscores the
19 importance of working with families to encourage and help guide their children's online use in
20 their own lives; and

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22 **Whereas**, technology and the Internet pose complex challenges for parents in order
23 to keep children safe and smart when engaging in online activities. Many children have been
24 confronted with material that is disturbing or inappropriate. There are steps parents can take to
25 try to shield their children from such material; and

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27 **Whereas**, sadly there are cases where children have been victimized by serious
28 crime as a result of going online. The fact that crimes are being committed online, however, is
29 not a reason to avoid using the valuable services available online. Children need parental
30 involvement and supervision to greatly minimize any potential risks of being online; and

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32 **Whereas**, in order to foster appropriate use of the Internet by children, parents
33 should take responsibility for their children's online usage by familiarizing themselves about the
34 Internet, their children's usage of the computer, and the online activities that their children are
35 involved in:

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37 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of
38 Representatives of the Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate
39 concurring therein, hereby encourage the observance of the first day of each month as "Check
40 Your Child's Internet Usage Day" in Missouri. All parents are urged to set aside time each
41 month to monitor the online computer usage of their children. All schools, educators, state
42 agencies, and the community at-large are encouraged to observe Check Your Child's Internet
43 Usage Day with activities and information that promote responsible online usage by children and
44 that support parents in the monitoring of children's online usage; and

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46 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
47 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for Governor
48 Jay Nixon and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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