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WASHINGTON – Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) said he is dismayed that the U.S. Supreme Court has effectively killed a law designed to protect children from Internet pornography.

The justices today refused to hear the government’s appeal of a lower court ruling that struck down the Child Online Protection Act (COPA), passed by Congress in 1998 to protect minors from indecent material on the Internet. Bachus, who sponsored and voted for the law, spearheaded a letter with Congressman Joe Pitts (PA) that urged the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make the final attempt to save the statute. A challenge brought by the American Civil Liberties Union has tied COPA up in hearings for more than ten years, preventing it from ever being enforced.

The law required commercial pornographers to put a filter on their teaser pages – the electronic equivalent of a “brown paper bag” – to prevent accidental access by minors.

Congressman Bachus said, “The Child Online Protection Act was a commonsense way to help parents protect their kids from the corrupting

influence of graphic pornography on the Internet. It's outrageous to think that pornographers have a right to force this in front of the eyes of our impressionable children and grandchildren. Families across our nation are at greater risk today because of the ACLU's determination to protect pornographers."