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**Heller Legislation To Combat Online Exploitation of Children Passes Key Committee**

**Washington, D.C.** – Today, the PROTECT Our Children Act passed the Senate Judiciary Committee and is one step closer to becoming law. The legislation was introduced by U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), Senators John Cornyn (R-TX), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

The PROTECT Our Children Act would reauthorize the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program, a national network of 61 coordinated task forces that combat child exploitation across the country. The ICAC aids local and state law enforcement in the creation and implementation of effective responses to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and Internet crimes against children. In order to develop effective response strategies to online child victimization, the ICAC offers guidance on victim support, forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, and prevention and community education

“As a father and a grandfather, I worry about what can happen to my grandchildren online,” **said Heller.** “The PROTECT Act ensures law enforcement has the tools to protect our children from those who intend to do them harm. The internet is relatively unrestricted and unknown, and that’s why we need to ensure those who want to keep our kids safe have the ability to do so.”

Organizations that support the PROTECT Our Children Act include the National Association to Protect Children (PROTECT), National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network), National Children’s Alliance, Rights4Girls, Shared Hope, Fraternal Order of Police, National Association of Police Organizations, Sergeants Benevolent Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, National Sheriffs Association, Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, National District Attorneys Association, National Criminal Justice Association, and Major City Chiefs Police Association.

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