

Media Advisory – Save the Date

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COPPA--Protecting Children's Privacy Online for 20 Years

Sen. Ed Markey, Advocates and Experts Celebrate COPPA as they focus on future challenges posed by the digital marketplace
October 17th, Capitol Hill, Open to Public

Washington, D.C. To mark the 20th anniversary of the 1998 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), Senator Edward J. Markey (D-MA) —its principal congressional sponsor—will be joined by key representatives from the consumer, child advocacy, and privacy groups involved in implementing the law, at a public forum on Wednesday, October 17 from 12:30-3:30 pm in Room 385 of the Senate Russell Office Building (SR-385). Senator Markey will deliver a keynote speech followed by two panels featuring representatives from Electronic Privacy Information Center, Campaign for Commercial Free Childhood, Common Sense Media, Center for Digital Democracy, Color of Change, and Institute for Public Representation (Georgetown University Law Center), among others. Prof. Kathryn C. Montgomery, who spearheaded the public campaign that led to COPPA, will moderate.

“COPPA is the nation's constitution for children's communication. For 20 years it has shielded our nation's children from invasive practices and encroaching actors on the internet,” Sen. Markey noted. “It puts children and families in control and holds violators accountable when they compromise kids' privacy. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of COPPA, we must look to the future.”

In addition to discussing COPPA's impact, speakers will explore the expanding interactive and data-driven world young people face today, which

is being transformed by a host of powerful technologies, such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and internet-connected toys.

“In 2018, children grow up in an increasingly connected and digital world with ever-emerging threats to their sensitive personal information,” explained Sen. Markey. “Two decades after the passage of this bedrock law, it is time to redouble our efforts and safeguard the precious privacy of our youngest Americans.”

The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to jeff@democraticmedia.org.