

**Cox Communications' 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Internet Safety Summit**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
(As prepared)

July 22, 2008

Thank you all for being here today. I am here to tell you that there are policymakers in Washington who care about you. Most of my professional career has been spent working on issues to improve the lives of children and families, and I continue to be a voice for you -- parents and children -- at the FCC. Our children are indeed our country's most valuable natural resource, and we should treat them as such. In order to ensure they reach their greatest potential, we must ensure that they have access to a wealth of educational information in an environment that protects their physical safety and healthy mental development.

I, like many parents across the country, never really thought past the beneficial opportunities the Internet offers -- from the wonders of telemedicine, to distance learning opportunities, to creating and producing your own content. However, we must also realize that this technological explosion of access also presents challenges and very real dangers.

So first, let me thank the parents who are here today. Thank you for being caring and involved parents -- for taking an interest in and wanting to find ways to protect your children in this new digital age. Parenting is a hard job, and it just got harder. Turning off a television may take some gumption, but overseeing every avenue that a child walks down on the Internet is daunting. And, unfortunately, there are many parents who are not involved in this new world in which our children live, which is why events like this one are so important. Through discussions like the one we are engaging in today, *kids talking to kids*, we can help parents, teachers, caregivers and all those who work with our children be more aware of their online activities and be able to talk to them about what they access across multiple platforms.

I believe parents have a responsibility to parent and are the first line of defense for their families. However, parents cannot do it alone. As the source of an endless highway of information and entertainment, cable and Internet providers also have a responsibility to assist families in educating children about the dangers of the Internet, especially the potential dangers of online chatting and posting personal information on blogs and social networking sites. I have been pleased to see members of the industry take initial steps toward this goal and that is why I am honored to participate with John Walsh from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children as well as with Miss America 2007, Lauren Nelson, in Cox's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Internet Safety Summit. John and Lauren are certainly two of your greatest champions here in D.C. and across this country. Thank you to Cox Communications for initiating and hosting these important summits to begin a national dialogue not merely *about* our children's online safety but *with* them. Their input regarding how to reach their peers, sharing positive tools such as individual school media literacy programs, or anti-cyber-bullying curriculum and just simply helping to spread the word across this country will be crucial in this fight to keep all of our children safe in this online world.