



Congressman Tim Bishop

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BISHOP ANNOUNCES INTERNET SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Congressman Hosts Free Forum to Help Parents Keep Cyber-Criminals Away from their Kids

Southampton, NY: Congressman Tim Bishop is urging parents to attend an important, free workshop where they can learn ways to protect their children on the Internet. Bishop will be hosting a forum entitled, 'Protecting Children from Online Predators: Tips and Tools for Parents,' on Monday, April 11 at 6pm in the Auditorium of Southampton High School. The workshop will include cyber-crime experts, information about preventing online sexual exploitation of children, and law enforcement representatives. There will also be opportunities for parents to ask the questions on their minds to experts.

"The Internet opens up a world of information to our children, but it also opens our homes to online predators," Bishop said. "As a parent, I hope people will come to this free workshop and learn how they can make sure their children use the Internet safely." Bishop felt that this issue needed to be widely addressed after recent arrests of adults preying on Long Island teenagers after meeting on the internet.

"I appreciate the efforts of Congressman Bishop to raise the public's awareness of this issue," Parry Aftab, an attorney and a world-renowned Internet safety expert said. "With one out of every four teen girls and one of every seven teen boys admitting to having met a stranger in person after chatting online, we must be ever more aware of our children's online activity." Aftab is the Executive Director of WiredSafety.org, the largest online safety and educational program in cyberspace.

Aftab helps prevent and investigate cybercrime. Under its former name, her group was awarded the President's Service Award in October 1998 from the White House and Points of Light Foundation. She also works closely with law enforcement around the world to police the Internet and is part of the Home Office Cybercrime Task Force in the UK. In 1999, Aftab was appointed by UNESCO to head up its Innocence in Danger project for the U.S. The project was designed to make sure that all children (regardless of wealth or ethnic background) gain safe access to the Internet.

Detective Rory Forrestal of the Suffolk County Police Department's Computer Crimes Bureau will discuss internet crimes in Suffolk County. Since its inception in May of 2001, the Suffolk County Computer Crime Unit has made or assisted in over 100 arrests for on line pedophilia, child pornography and other exploited children's cases. The Bureau has assisted in the proactive development of cases throughout the country involving children as young as 18 months old and assisted law enforcement at the local, state and federal levels. The Bureau has a 100% Conviction rate and has saved countless children from lives of sexual abuse.

Dana Brown, Assistant District Attorney for Suffolk County in the Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Bureau will also join Bishop to discuss the District Attorney's prosecution of internet exploitation cases. For more information on this important forum, please contact Jennifer Gunn in Congressman Bishop's Coram District Office at (631) 696-6500.

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