



April 10, 2009

North Carolina Partnership for Children
1100 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27604

Attorney General Roy Cooper,

As you may know, Smart Start is a public-private initiative that provides early education funding to all of the state's 100 counties. Smart Start funds are administered at the local level through local nonprofit organizations called Local Partnerships. The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) is the statewide nonprofit organization that provides oversight and technical assistance for local partnerships. In 2001, the NCPC established a National Technical Assistance Center to assist other states with the development of an early education initiative.

Smart Start is designed to ensure that young children enter school healthy and ready to succeed. Part of that success includes protecting our children from any dangers or harm as they move through the education system. As online technologies and applications are continuously evolving, parents and educators have difficulty managing such technological when it comes to keeping kids safe. Stop Internet Predators is a national resource that can help us achieve this goal.

For that reason, on behalf of the Board of NCPC, we send this letter of endorsement of the 2009 Stop Internet Predators campaign. NCPC believe that additional safeguards are essential for new technologies, such as Google Street View, as they are introduced into our online communities. On behalf of NCPC, we support Stop Internet Predators' efforts to educate parents and communities on emerging online child safety issues and empower them to protect their children's privacy, security and safety.

Our children are our primary concern when it comes to new online technologies and websites that have the potential to threaten their safety. We look forward to future collaboration between your office, Stop Internet Predators and NCPC. If there is any way our organization can be supportive of your efforts to protect the children of North Carolina, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Yours truly,

Ashley Thrift, Board Chair