

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM



Tom Davis, Chairman

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Dr. Laura Shines Light on Peer-to-Peer Porn Dangers

Radio Host Builds on Government Reform Momentum

Washington, DC – An important issue raised last month by House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis – the alarming ease of access to pornography on peer-to-peer computer networks – will receive the attention of millions of Americans this week, thanks to prominent coverage from nationally-syndicated radio host Dr. Laura.

Peer-to-peer networks are Internet programs that allow users to access each other's computer files. Typically, people use these programs to share music, images and video. The technology is booming in popularity, especially among young Americans.

The Committee's March hearing focused on a little known issue associated with file sharing programs: the increasing availability of pornography, including child pornography, on these networks, and the risk of inadvertent exposure of juvenile users to pornographic materials. Seemingly harmless search terms likely to be used by children (such as names of cartoon characters or celebrities) produce a high proportion of pornographic images.

Dr. Laura featured the issue, and the committee's review of it, on her show that aired at 1:10 pm PST yesterday. **Today, the show will played locally on WMAL 630 AM beginning at 10 a.m.; the segment on peer-to-peer networks and pornography begins a little over an hour into the program, at approximately 11:10 a.m.** Dr. Laura also features information on the problem – and what parents can do about it – on her web site, www.drlaura.com.

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