

## **For Prison/Police Abolitionist, Anti-Carceral Feminist Comrades**

Remember FOST/SESTA? Remember the Patriot Act? Yeah, so do we.

This is why we need education and concerted efforts to oppose and defeat the so-called “Earn It” Act of 2020 (S. 3398), especially from comrades already invested in ending state surveillance and its rampant punishment policies.

What is the “Earn It” Act? The short title is: Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2020 or the EARN IT Act of 2020.

This act was proposed from Senators Graham and Blumenthal, and drafted with help from Trump’s Justice Department. The act aims to address child sexual abuse online **by threatening to allow more lawsuits against websites over user-created content, unless they comply with new government speech guidelines**. It would **create a commission to set government control of online speech**, and experts believe it is a thinly veiled attempt to mandate encryption backdoors. This means, in practice, ending end-to-end encryption.

If you care about free speech and free expression online particularly for marginalized groups like queer and trans sex workers of color, safe ways for you and your allies to connect, or political opponents of the current administration, you should care about this proposed act.

This act would create a massive new threat to anyone who could be a target of the DOJ, by letting their new cherry-picked committee certify whether websites are living up to new federal speech rules, *ostensibly to protect children*. But those rules could easily be used to limit speech about abortion, LGBTQAI peoples, harm reduction methods, criticism of law enforcement, and so on.

We know the government, and law enforcement in particular, love punishment policies in the name of *saving* young girls and children. These policies allow for carte blanche punishment if compliance is not met, meaning online and encrypted platforms will be compelled to relinquish user data and content in order to stay operational, and not face fines and jail time.

**[Call to action info here]**

## **For Mainstream DV Organizations & Professional Care Providers**

Imagine a survivor being unable to safely disclose to advocates and care providers that abuse is occurring, or being unable to inquire about access needs while experiencing violence.

There are so many reasons people rely on encrypted messaging services, disclosing abuse and asking for help is just one of the few reasons...

This is why we need education and concerted efforts to oppose and defeat the so-called “Earn It” Act of 2020 (S. 3398), especially from advocates already invested in ending further abuse of survivors, invasive surveillance, and rampant punishment policies.

What is the “Earn It” Act? The short title is: Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2020 or the EARN IT Act of 2020.

This act was proposed from Senators Graham and Blumenthal, and drafted with help from Trump’s Justice Department. The act aims to address child sexual abuse online **by threatening to allow more lawsuits against websites over user-created content, unless they comply with new government speech guidelines**. However, It would **create a commission to set government control of online speech**, and experts believe it is a thinly veiled attempt to mandate encryption backdoors. This means, in practice, ending encryption and punishing platforms that don’t divulge and relinquish user content and personal information. Platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Signal, WeChat, etc will now be opened up at the government’s discretion.

What if you’ve experienced abuse from police? What if the violence you’re surviving is at the hands of someone with law enforcement access?

This act, by creating government encryption backdoors, would jeopardize the security of every single American, by opening the door to predators who would exploit weak phone security to target children, women and vulnerable individuals. They would also allow the government to spy on nearly every aspect of Americans’ lives at a massive scale, and create unprecedented opportunities for abuse.

We must not allow predatory policies like this one to pass. This bill's authors claim they're creating more overarching surveillance to "protect children," but in reality, this bill creates the conditions for alarming personal abuse and violation of privacy.

**[Call to action info here]**

## **For SWer & Drug-using/Harm Reduction Community**

Y'all. This is such a clear extension, and expansion of SESTA/FOSTA; even more aggressively geared toward surveillance and government anti-encryption crackdowns. Remember how hard we fought before, we need that level of commitment, and more, again.

This is why we need education and concerted efforts to oppose and defeat the so-called "EARN IT Act of 2020" (S. 3398), especially from fellow sex working/trading and hustling comrades already invested in ending state surveillance and its rampant whorephobic punishment policies.

What is the "EARN IT Act"? The full title is: Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2020 or the "EARN IT Act of 2020", introduced March 5, 2020.

This act was proposed from Senators Graham (R-SC) and Blumenthal (D-CT), and drafted with help from Trump's Justice Department. The act aims to address child sexual abuse online **by threatening to allow more lawsuits against websites over user-created content and communication, unless they comply with new government speech guidelines**. It would **create a commission to set government control of online speech**, and experts believe it is a thinly veiled attempt to mandate encryption backdoors. This means, in practice, ending encryption.

If you care about free speech, the sharing of knowledge, dissent and freedom of expression online, your fellow queer and trans sex workers of color, drug-using workers and harm reduction advocates, or political opponents of the current administration, you should care about smashing this proposed act.

This act would create a massive new threat to anyone who does not wish to be surveilled by private companies, by letting their new cherry-picked committee certify whether websites are living up to new federal speech rules, *ostensibly to protect children*. But those rules could easily be used to limit speech about abortion, LGBTQAI peoples, harm reduction methods, criticism of law enforcement, and so on, especially when private companies are given the ability to decide what to do with expanded surveillance and liability.

We know the government, and law enforcement in particular, love to expand surveillance and criminalization in the name of *saving* women, young girls and children. Just like SESTA/FOSTA, these policies expand the liability of platforms while requiring increased surveillance – all without a thought to its impact on users. We are still seeing the ramifications of FOSTA/SESTA – we cannot double down on these harms.

**[Call to action info here]**

## **For Anti-State/Leftist Organizing Comrades**

Remember the Patriot Act? Yeah, so do we.

This is why we need education and concerted efforts to oppose and defeat the so-called “Earn It” Act of 2020 (S. 3398), especially from comrades already invested in ending state surveillance and its rampant punishment policies.

What is the “Earn It” Act? The short title is: Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2020 or the EARN IT Act of 2020.

This act was proposed from Senators Graham and Blumenthal, and drafted with help from Trump’s Justice Department. The act aims to address child sexual abuse online **by threatening to allow more lawsuits against websites over user-created content, unless they comply with new government speech guidelines**. It would **create a commission to set government control of online speech**, and experts believe it is a thinly veiled attempt to mandate encryption backdoors. This means, in practice, ending encryption.

Signal? Yep. Riseup? Yep. Protonmail? That too. Those encrypted messaging services and more will be directly impacted.

If you care about free speech and free expression online, particularly for organizers, dissidents, marginalized groups like queer and trans sex workers of color, or political opponents of the current administration, you should care about this proposed act.

This act would create a massive new threat to anyone who could be a target of the DOJ, by letting their new cherry-picked committee certify whether websites are living up to new federal speech rules, *ostensibly to protect children*. But those rules could easily be used to limit speech about abortion, LGBTQAI peoples, harm reduction methods around drug use, criticism of law enforcement, affinity group actions, and so on.

We know the government, and law enforcement in particular, love punishment policies in the name of *saving* young girls and children. These policies allow for carte blanche punishment if compliance is not met, meaning online and encrypted platforms will be compelled to relinquish user data and content in order to stay operational, and not face fines and jail time.

**[Call to action info here]**