



ProtectFamilyRights.org

June 13, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

In 2005, Congress passed the Family Movie Act (FMA), which granted families the right to filter offensive content in movies for private home viewing. Hollywood studios fought hard to deny these rights, both through litigation and aggressive lobbying against the FMA. Despite this opposition, Congress acted in behalf of parents and families and passed the bill.

Since 2005, the preferred method for viewing movies has shifted from DVD to streaming. Hollywood has seized this opportunity to once again attack the filtering industry with (a) litigation against VidAngel, the leading streaming filtering company, (b) contractual clauses with streaming providers to prohibit filtering, and (c) opposition to protecting streaming under the Family Movie Act. Because of these actions, including an injunction from a studio-centric Los Angeles court, the movie filtering industry has declined by 90%, endangering the very rights that Congress sought to protect in 2005.

To preserve the right of parents to shield their children from harmful content, Congress needs to update the FMA to explicitly include streaming. The proposed update defends the rights of families to filter when using authorized streaming services, like Netflix and Amazon, and without sacrificing studio revenue or violating the Copyright Act. We are asking the House to pass legislation that simply clarifies that families have the right to filter streamed movies, for private viewing, without interference.

We, the members of The Protect Family Rights Coalition, a broad-based group of leaders from respected organizations, are asking for your support.

Respectfully,

William J. Aho
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Protect Family Rights Coalition
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