



Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies

March 9, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Josh Hawley
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: EARN IT Act

Dear Chairman Graham, Ranking Member Feinstein, Senator Blumenthal, and Senator Hawley:

On behalf of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA), I am writing to express support for the EARN IT Act of 2020. ASCIA is a professional association representing the lead statewide criminal investigative agencies in 48 states.

Child exploitation cases are some of the most disturbing to investigate given the age and innocence of the victims involved. The proliferation of online platforms has, in many ways, made it easier for perpetrators of child exploitation to commit their heinous crimes. At the same time, investigative agencies face increasing challenges when attempting to obtain digital evidence that can help stop exploitation and bring justice to those who cause harm.

The EARN IT Act holds promise for improving the ability of online platforms to deter, detect, and report exploitive content. It also could lead to an improved ability for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute these crimes. In addition to the EARN IT Act, Congress should address separately the growing inability of law enforcement investigators to obtain encrypted content from devices and online platforms. ASCIA continues to urge Congress to consider a legislative requirement that providers maintain an ability to access communications and other content when a judge issues a search warrant.

We commend your leadership on these important issues and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Mark Keel
President, ASCIA
Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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