

ROCK OUT CENSORSHIP

We, the undersigned wholly reject any government decision mandating the use of internet filtering devices on public computer systems. We reject the notion that such policies serve to protect anyone from anything, but instead are tools for controlling the free flow of constitutionally protected information and material. By limiting the access of information and what one can view and one cannot view, government officials display a profound example of an abuse of power and an infringement of First Amendment rights.

Supporters claim that the filtering devices prohibit the access to pornography websites. The reality is that the devices most often operate on a keyword search that not only blocks the intended adult sites, but also many important educational websites dealing with abortion, AIDS, breast cancer, and even fine art so that they all become forbidden material. It is quite common for sites to be tagged as forbidden on the basis of political beliefs as well, and the criteria for what gets blocked is rarely released by the blocking software manufacturers. It is our position that policies mandating the use of blocking software only serve to create a sad societal condition touting ignorance as bliss, and interferes with the educational opportunity the internet presents. It is not the government's right or role to make such content decisions for the public.

SAY NO TO MANDATORY BLOCKING SOFTWARE ON PUBLIC COMPUTER SYSTEMS!

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

STREET ADDRESS (incl. city, state, zip)

**PLEASE RETURN COPIES TO: ROCK OUT CENSORSHIP
6709 PAUL REVERE CT. - ORLANDO, FL 32809**