



For Immediate Release
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Statement from John Phillips, CEO of Aristotle on Internet Safety Technical Task Force Report

Washington, DC -- "As a member of the Internet Safety Technical Task Force I am disappointed with the outcome of the ISTTF and recommendations set forth in the Final Report. The Task Force not only failed to identify online user authentication/verification tools for making social networking sites (SNS), such as MySpace, safer – as instructed by Attorneys General – but, also, establish specific and objective criteria to evaluate technology safety solutions going forward.

I also believe the Task Force has created a false sense of security for parents (and the community at large) by overstating qualitative research findings about convicted sex offenders' use of SNS and underestimating the risk to minors of sexual predation online.

While the final report notes that additional research needs to be done concerning the online practices and behaviors of convicted sex offenders (CSOs), this statement is merely a calculated excuse for the Task Force failing to focus on the conduct of sexual predators in social network sites and ignoring the availability of such data. As of June 2008, at least 50,000 registered sex offenders had been discovered on MySpace. While the initial discovery of sexual predators on MySpace served as the catalyst to form the ISTTF, no studies were conducted on this issue. Worse still, the 50,000 predator profiles and chat logs found on MySpace which chronicle unlawful activities between CSOs and minors were never requested for analysis by the Task Force. Does the Task Force presume contacts between CSOs and minors to be innocent?

I believe this blatant omission casts the findings of the Final Report into serious doubt. Concerned parents, Attorneys General, and others must wonder how a Task Force with a research group – all supposedly devoted to focusing on social network site safety – could fail to review or – at a minimum – even request such pertinent data.

To date, MySpace has made no effort to alert minors (or parents of minors) who were previously contacted by one or more of the 50,000 known predators. What responsible citizen who bore witness to a sexual predator contacting a child would not feel compelled to notify the minor, the parent or appropriate authorities?

According to Hemanshu Nigam, Chief Security Officer, MySpace, "We think it's really important to collaborate and partner with those that are also thinking about the safety and security of the community." So it is difficult to discern MySpace's rationale for withholding such information, as the mere contact with a minor could be a potential



violation of parole and federal/state laws. Does MySpace believe the privacy of convicted sex offenders is more important than the safety of our communities?

I urge all concerned parents and teens to visit www.childonlineprotectionservice.org to email MySpace and demand notification if they have been contacted by a sexual predator.

As predators become more adept at finding vulnerable teens online, we must be more vigilant in protecting the innocent from becoming another preventable statistic.”

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About Integrity

As a division of Aristotle, the global data management team trusted by government agencies, political candidates, elected officials, and Fortune 1000 companies, Integrity extends Aristotle’s comprehensive COSMOS™ database of government-issued IDs, among other data sources, to bring instantaneous age and identity verification to life.

Integrity™ is a suite of widely accepted identity and age verification solutions, presented by Aristotle. Used for instant verification of government-issued ID, the service operates across various platforms, including online, interactive voice response (IVR), wireless and other mobile devices.

Offering tailored solutions to both commercial and government sectors, Integrity helps responsible merchants mitigate the risk of age or identity fraud online and in-person, while government agencies trust Integrity to provide verifiable value-added identification services. Major Integrity deployments already include major motion-picture studios, wineries, brewers and distillers, tobacco vendors, financial services firms, event management and advertising agencies, transportation security and other government agencies. (www.aristotle.com)