

USACM
ACM US Public Policy Council

For Immediate Release
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**USACM Statement on Letters Submitted to the Senate and House Judiciary Committees
Regarding SOPA and PIPA**

Below is a statement from Eugene H. Spafford, USACM Chair, on letters submitted to the [Senate](#) and [House](#) Judiciary Committees regarding PIPA and SOPA with accompanying analyses of such legislation's (both [Senate](#) and [House](#) versions) impact on DNS and DNSSEC.

"With a membership whose professional output relies on sound, enforceable intellectual property rights, ACM supports reasonable efforts to address criminal violations of those rights. However, thorough analyses of both SOPA and PIPA by many parties have revealed numerous concerns. USACM applied its expertise to an analysis of some significant technical issues embodied in the bills."

"Specifically, the portions of the legislation dealing with DNS (Domain Name System) are misguided and would not only undermine years of sound technical work by the international community, but would also inhibit substantial progress made by many parties, including the federal government, to address security flaws in the existing DNS system. Any actions that interfere with or weaken any aspect of DNSSEC (DNS Security Extensions), should be viewed with grave concern, and the portions of this legislation that deal with DNS do just that. Therefore, we welcome the recent announcements to reconsider—and hopefully, remove—the provisions regarding DNS blocking.

"The proposed legislation, including the manager's amendment to SOPA, will impose significant negative consequences on the proper functioning of DNS, and especially with the ongoing implementation of DNSSEC. The bill's approach would ultimately prove ineffective in addressing the legislation's goals, which are already easily bypassed, would impose cost burdens on innocent third parties, and would interfere with progress in reducing on-line fraud and espionage.

"When addressing online piracy, legislation should seek to avoid technological mandates. Computing technology evolves quickly, and innovations often render technologies moot before legislation has time to be fully implemented."

ABOUT ACM and USACM

With 100,000+ members, the [Association for Computing Machinery](#) (ACM) is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources and address the field's challenges. The ACM U.S. Public Policy Council (USACM) serves as the focal point for ACM's interaction with U.S. government organizations, the computing community, and the U.S. public in all matters of U.S. public policy related to information technology.

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