

Attorney General still at odds over MySpace

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Yesterday North Carolina's attorney general, Roy Cooper, vowed to keep pressuring lawmakers to approve legislation that would require minors to get parental permission before using social networking websites like MySpace.com.

Cooper and law enforcement officials from other states have said repeatedly that the sites provide sexual predators easy access to children because people of any age can join. Officials in two states have reported that MySpace recently identified over 29,000 registered sex offenders with profiles- a claim the company will not confirm. According to company officials, MySpace is working to locate and remove profiles posted by sexual offenders. Yesterday, Cooper threatened to take action against MySpace if it fails to require parental consent voluntarily. He did not specify what kind of action he intended to take. Cooper has been pushing for a state law that would require social networking sites like MySpace to confirm and verify a parent's permission before allowing a minor to create a profile. Such legislation was not passed this year- due in part to House dissenters' beliefs that the measure would be hard to regulate and unconstitutional. While a House committee did pass a bill banning registered sex offenders from joining social networking sites, no further action was taken.