



NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

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NNEDV

May 18, 2015

VIA EMAIL: JCHARLESWORTH@LOC.GOV

Ms. Jacqueline Charlesworth
General Counsel and Associate Register of Copyrights
United States Copyright Office
Library of Congress
101 Independence Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20559-6001

Re: **Exemption to Prohibition on Circumvention of Copyright Protection Systems for Access Control Technologies, Docket No. 2014-07**

Dear Ms. Charlesworth:

On behalf of the hundreds of domestic violence shelter programs and statewide groups and coalitions against domestic and sexual violence across the country that we serve, I write in opposition to proposed changes to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) affecting passenger cars and light trucks.

The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), a social change organization, is dedicated to creating a social, political and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists. Since 1990, NNEDV has worked to make domestic violence a national priority, change the way communities respond to domestic violence, and strengthen efforts against intimate partner violence at every level of government.

NNEDV is concerned that proposed exemptions will make it easier for violent partners and predators to monitor, stalk, and harm victims through access to what is now protected internal automobile systems and technology. Through NNEDV's [Safety Net Project](#), NNEDV has spent thousands of hours educating law enforcement, victim advocates, and other practitioners on how abusers use technology to abuse, track, control, and dominate victims, further endangering their lives and preventing the victims from seeking help.

Our experience strongly suggests that a government regulation permitting individuals to circumvent protections to allow unauthorized access to software and data in today's cars could have serious unintended consequences, including increasing the risk of remote unauthorized access to a victim's car. The change would also further embolden and empower the already dangerous software market that targets abusers, providing tools that give them even more

power over victims. There are a myriad of products designed to allow abusers and stalkers to control a victim's car, however all current products require physical access to the victim's car.

The unintended consequences of these requested changes are real, and avoidable. For instance, Bluetooth systems available in most new cars could be modified without the victim's knowledge to record phone conversations, or the GPS signal could be intercepted to determine location. By bypassing technological protection measures and making modifications to vehicle systems, this information could then be transmitted, without the victim's knowledge, to a disgruntled former partner. Airbag systems could be reprogrammed to disarm the airbags and disable the warning light. Anti-lock braking systems could be reprogrammed to apply (or lock) the brakes when the vehicle speed exceeds 70 miles per hour. None of these changes would be detectable to an unsuspecting victim until it was too late.

In the reply comments, change proponents say that the law "does not permit the Librarian (of Congress)" or the Copyright Office, which advises him in this proceeding, to base its decision on "harms unrelated to copyright infringement." We disagree. The law specifically allows the Librarian to consider such other factors, as considered appropriate. We submit that it appropriate to consider whether heightened risks to victims of domestic violence could be an unintended consequence of the proposed regulation, and, if it is, to reject it.

NNEDV appreciates the opportunity to share its perspective on this important issue. We ask that this letter be included in the record of this proceeding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Southworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cindy Southworth, MSW
Executive Vice President and
Founder of the Safety Net Technology Project at NNEDV