



The Association of Business Media Companies

Update on Database Protection

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Regrettably, attempts to enact meaningful protections for collections of information have not been successful. At the beginning of the 108th Congress, The Coalition Against Database Piracy, to which American Business Media belongs, had high hopes that the necessary compromise between the two House committees with jurisdiction over the issue could finally be reached and legislation passed. Though Chairmen James Sensenbrenner (Judiciary, R-WI) and Billy Tauzin (Energy and Commerce, R-LA) pledged to work together to produce a mutually acceptable bill, staff turnover at high levels within both committees resulted in substantial delays in getting a bill introduced. This delay left too little time for the bill to work its way through the legislative process towards approval by the House. It is hoped that with a bill finally in hand, database protection legislation can be enacted in the second session of the 108th Congress.