Entertainment Consumers Association to submit amicus brief, fan petition to Supreme Court

by AJ Glasser  May 12, 2010 09:35 AM PT

The ECA plans to file an amicus brief with the Supreme Court over the upcoming Schwarzenegger v EMA case the court will hear in its next session. The document lets the ECA state its position on the case and also allows the ECA to submit a gamer petition to show your position on the case.

The ECA's position is that video games – violent or otherwise – are protected speech under the First Amendment guaranteed the same rights as movies, music, or books. The Schwarzenegger v EMA case centers around a California law that criminalizes the sale of violent video games to minors.

The ECA sent out a press release about the brief this morning that included a plea to gamers to sign the petition. "Even if you’re not a gamer," the release reads, "if you work in the interactive entertainment space or otherwise derive a living from gaming, we’d urge you to aid us in this important ruling and let our collective voices be heard by signing the petition."

You can find the petition here. For a comprehensive look at the debate and background information on California’s law (which a U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California previously struck down as unconstitutional), check out the entry on the Violent Video Games Debate on ProCon.org.

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EKGPRO  May 12 2010 at 10:20:26 AM PST

Spread the word people, sign the petition. Do not think that just because you are older than 17 years old this doesn’t concern you. This is a fight. They want to treat violent video games the same way they treat pornography. Not only may it be illegal to advertise M rated games, you also wouldn’t be able to just walk into your local store and see them on the shelves. You would have to be escorted into a back room where M rated games are hidden from view.

It would essentially label video games as hurtful material. It would say that video games are not protected speech and it could destroy this entire industry. We CAN NOT let that happen. We know that they are wrong. We know that video games are art and should be treated as such. Do not sit back and watch as your favorite industry is shaken to its core. If you are with us than please sign the petition.