



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Matt Bartle
8th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 431
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:
July 28, 2005

Contact: Todd Scott
(573) 751-1464

Senator Matt Bartle Announces Legislation to Strengthen Child Sexual Assault Laws

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee’s Summit, today announced he will introduce legislation for the 2006 session that will institute tougher laws against dangerous child molesters. Bartle will introduce the legislation in December, when bills are first allowed to be pre-filed.

“In April I made a promise to crack down on child sex offenders in Missouri, and I intend to fulfill the promise by passing tough legislation,” Bartle said. “The time is now to strengthen existing laws and to send a message that we will do what it takes to protect our children.”

The proposed legislation will be comprised of two main points. First, the bill will reform Missouri’s mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines. In Missouri, first degree rape of a child younger than 14 years old carries a mandatory penalty of only five years in prison. For children even younger, the minimum sentence is just 10 years. Bartle’s legislation ensures that such egregious offenders will not be eligible for such early release.

The second component of the bill will require dangerous repeat child sex offenders to spend the rest of their lives behind bars.

“Our children may be helpless against these cruel predators, but we are not,” Bartle said. “It is time we take a stand to protect Missouri’s kids. We need to send a message that evil, vile acts against children will not be tolerated.”

– END –