



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Internet Tool Helps Families Keep Children Safe on Halloween Night
Address Search Tool and Photos Give Parents Easier Access to Sex Offender Registry

JEFFERSON CITY – Parents now have a new tool available to them to help keep their children safe on their Halloween ‘Trick-or-Treat’ routes next Monday night thanks to legislation passed earlier this year that allows the Missouri State Highway Patrol and county sheriffs’ departments to post pictures and provide searches by name and address of sexual offenders on the Internet. Sen. Norma Champion, R-Springfield, sponsored the bill and encourages parents to use the new search tool and photographs on state and local sex offender registries to make sure their children do not inadvertently approach the home of a convicted sex offender asking for candy on Halloween night.

“Parents should have every tool available to them to help protect their children,” Champion said. “That is why we made pictures along with searchable addresses available on the Internet so parents can know if someone in their neighborhood could be a threat to their children’s safety.”

The measure, Senate Bill 73, took effect on August 28. The highway patrol has updated Missouri’s sex offender on-line registry to include the ability to search by name or address as well as photographs of convicted sexual offenders. Several counties, including Greene and Cole, have also updated their on-line registries.

“Protecting children is our number one priority,” Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, said. “I’m glad we can use technology through the good work of Sen. Champion to give parents access to information that will help keep our children safe with just the click of a mouse.”

The Missouri State Highway Patrol Sex Offender Registry can be found on-line at: www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov. Once logged onto the Missouri Highway Patrol website, click the link titled “Sex Offender Registry” found on the right side of the webpage in the yellow menu bar.

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