



STOPPING CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT

Legislature Passes Bill Cracking Down on Child Sexual Predators

30-year Mandatory Minimum Sentences Imposed

Shortly before the legislative session ended on May 12, the Legislature passed a bill dramatically increasing the penalties on predators who sexually abuse children. This new law was inspired by the horrific assault and murder last year of 9-year-old Jessica Lunsford of Florida and will help ensure that dangerous predators receive the strict punishment their crimes deserve.

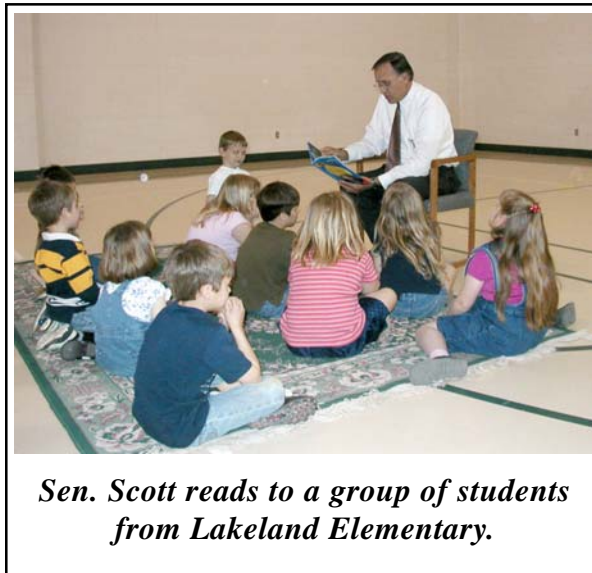
Shortly after this terrible crime in April 2005, Sen. Scott publicly committed to cracking down on child sexual crimes in Missouri. To that end, he co-sponsored the Senate version of this year's sex-crimes bill and was supportive of the House version (HB 1698), which was ultimately passed and sent to the governor for his signature.

The main components of HB 1698 are as follows:

30-Year Mandatory Prison Sentences: This penalty is for criminals convicted of forcible rape or sodomy of a child under the age of 12, even for first-time offenders.

Mandatory Life Sentences: Those who are convicted of a second qualifying sexual offense against a child must serve a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

Cybercrimes Unit: In response to the unprecedented growth of child predators on the Internet, this provision authorizes the creation of a panel to distribute grants to law enforcement task forces to patrol cyberspace and hunt down and bring to justice predators attempting to entice unsuspecting children online.



Sen. Scott reads to a group of students from Lakeland Elementary.

Sexual Assault by a Teacher: This measure expands the crime of sexual contact with a student. The crime now includes sexual contact with a student by a teacher, a student teacher, employee of the school, volunteer of the school or of an organization working

with the school, or a person employed by a contractor providing services to the school.

Sexual Trafficking of a Child: Those found guilty of sexual trafficking of a child younger than 12 years of age will face a felony punishable by life in prison without eligibility for parole for 25 years.

As a society and a state we cannot sit by and allow children, the weakest and most vulnerable among us, to be victims of these heinous predators. The passage of HB 1698 substantially increases the sentences for these violent acts.

GPS Satellite Tracking of Child Sexual Predators

In May 2005, in response to the murder and sexual assault of a child in Florida, Missouri lawmakers attached language onto a crime bill that was moving through the Legislature that requires anyone convicted of two sexual crimes, one of which is against a child under the age of 14, to wear a GPS tracking unit, even after they are released from prison at the completion of their sentence.

In an age of increasing sexual assaults on children, it is vital that law enforcement be able to monitor the whereabouts of those responsible for such terrible acts. Requiring repeat sexual offenders to wear a GPS tracking device will help ensure that the Missouri Department of Corrections is able to oversee the activities of those who have shown a propensity to sexually assault children.



Sen. Scott's grandson, Landon, relaxes in the Senator's Capitol office.



Contact Senator Delbert Scott

If you have questions or comments on any issue involving Missouri government, feel free to contact my office. My office is Room 221 of the State Capitol, and the phone number is (573) 751-8793. Visit me online at www.senate.mo.gov/scott or e-mail delbertscott@senate.mo.gov.

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