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For Immediate Release:
March 8, 2006

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Sexual-Offenders Bill Gets First-Round Approval from Missouri Senate

Measure implements tougher penalties on sexual predators

ST. LOUIS — Senator John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, today issued the following statement:

Today the Missouri Senate took a vast step in the battle to protect Missouri's children. Legislators gave preliminary approval to Senate Bill 588, which will toughen the laws and penalties regarding sexual offenders and predators.

I am confident that the Senate will overwhelmingly support the passage of this bill and it will be ultimately approved in the House of Representatives.

When I pre-filed legislation in December of last year, it was very important to me that the state establish a Sexual Predator Toll-Free hotline for Missouri residents to gain and provide information regarding sexual offenders in their communities. It was also vital that we establish a program to monitor and track sexual predators by GPS for the remainder of the predators' lives. I am pleased that these vital sections were added to the proposed bill, which will make Missouri children safer for years to come.

Although the danger may not always seem obvious in our home towns, the threat is real. Last week, five men were charged with trying to sexually entice a child on the Internet in Columbia. The "child" was actually an undercover Boone County Sheriff's Detective. The men charged were active in their communities as an airline pilot, a prison guard and a swim-team coach. It is evident that this bill will help to detour potential and previous sexual predators, whereby making our towns and children safer.

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