



THE LOUDON TIMES

Senator John Loudon
Senate District 7

Capitol Building, Room 422
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Working to Protect our Children from Internet Abuse

In my continued effort to offer greater protections to Missouri children, this week I introduced a proposal to fund task forces that will capture online sexual predators in Missouri. As these dangerous criminals continue to find new ways to try to exploit and abuse our children, we must remain steadfast in working to defeat their efforts. Although technology has given predators new means for abuse, we can also use those same innovations to capture these vile individuals.

My proposal calls for the creation of a program to distribute grants to Internet law-enforcement task forces and other law-enforcement agencies within the Missouri Department of Public Safety. The grants will be used to train and keep on staff specialized detectives and computer forensic personnel whose focus will be to investigate Internet sex crimes against children, including enticement of a child and possession or promotion of child pornography.

An eight-member panel will oversee the establishment and funding of the program, which must first be approved by the House and Senate appropriations committees. My staff and I are working to procure \$3 to 5 million for the new program. State Rep. Bob Dixon, R-Springfield, is introducing similar legislation in the House.

An estimated 20 percent of children between the age of 10 and 17 have received an unwanted online sexual solicitation. This is a troubling statistic, but we cannot sit back and allow this to happen. We have to have the determination to take the fight to these sick individuals. The safety of our children is at stake.



Lily, Lyda, and Jack with their new brother Samuel Christian Loudon

Our New Addition

On a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their support as my wife, Gina, and I have added a new member to our family. We have adopted Samuel Christian Loudon, a Down syndrome child who was born Jan. 26 in Florida. For years we have prayed that one day we would have the opportunity to adopt a child with Down syndrome, and we feel very blessed to be able to add Samuel to our family. Our other children, Lyda, Lily and Jack, are also thrilled to have a new brother.

I want to give a special thanks to our friends Albert and Deidre Pujols for their positive words of encouragement. They are the parents of a beautiful little girl named Isabella, who also has Down syndrome. Their work and the efforts of the Pujols Family Foundation has helped promote the amazing opportunity of adopting children with special needs across our state on day-by-day basis. ([/www.pujolsfamilyfoundation.com](http://www.pujolsfamilyfoundation.com)).

Thanks to all members of the 7th District for their support.

If you have questions or comments about these issues or any other topic, please call my Capitol office at (573) 751-9763. Thank you for your support.

Quote Of the Week

“The happiest moments of my life have been the few which I have passed at home in the bosom of my family.”

Thomas Jefferson