



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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PRESS RELEASE

Sen. Cauthorn Testifies for Jessica's Law, Tougher Sex Offender Sentences *Calls for Safer Missouri Communities*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Sex offenders will face longer sentences and increased registration requirements under Senator John Cauthorn's Senate Bill 570. Cauthorn testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee today on behalf of his legislation.

"Missouri will not be a safe haven for sex offenders," said Cauthorn. "2006 will be the year of safe communities and the crackdown on the sickest of crimes against society."

Cauthorn's legislation includes components of "Jessica's Law" which was first passed in Florida after nine-year old Jessica Lunsford was kidnapped, raped and murdered. The bill includes "25 to Life" sentences for forcible rape, first degree statutory rape, forcible sodomy and sexual trafficking if the victim is younger than 14. Further, the bill:

- Allows law enforcement officials to notify neighbors within one-mile of a registered sex offender
- Requires sex offenders to report to county law enforcement bi-annually
- Sex offenders must provide vehicle description when registering
- Increases penalties for failing to register

"The Internet has opened doors for sex offenders to easily stalk and prey on children," said Cauthorn. "I can think of no crime more heinous and detrimental to our communities and our children."

The committee is expected to vote on comprehensive sex offender legislation soon.

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri's 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6850. You can also visit his web page by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.