



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Cracking Down on Predators Who Prey on Our Children

This week the Missouri Senate approved legislation protecting our children from predators, making it clear that the Show-Me State will show no tolerance for those who prey on our children.

Last year the Legislature passed a law allowing county law enforcement officers to post photographs of sex offenders on their Web sites. Because sex offenders are known to be repeat offenders, pictures are one of the best ways to identify potentially dangerous people and prevent them from getting close to our children.

This year we are making the laws even tougher. The Senate this week approved Senate Bill 588, which cracks down on sexual offenders attempting to exploit our children. SB 588 focuses on requiring lifetime supervision and monitoring of more sex offenders, as well as increasing the minimum prison sentence for certain sexual offenses. For example, under SB 588 people who are found guilty of endangering the welfare of a child in a sexual manner will now be

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electronically monitored for life. Additionally, those guilty of forcible rape or sodomy of a child under the age of 12 would be sentenced to prison for a minimum of 25 years. Offenders that repeat certain crimes will now serve a life sentence without parole, rather than the 30 years that they must serve under current law.

Furthermore, the bill broadens the definition of child pornography, thereby bringing Missouri's definition in line with federal law. To prevent registered sex offenders from obtaining and keeping child pornography or committing certain sexual offenses, sex offenders must give their probation officers access to their home computers.

The bill includes a number of provisions increasing public awareness of dangerous sexual offenders. For one, the Highway Patrol would operate a toll-free number to help spread information regarding sex offenders to the public. The legislation also modifies the types of crimes that are posted on the registry, allows law enforcement to publish sex offender information in newspapers and requires sex offenders to provide an updated photo to law enforcement every five years.

Enhanced communications is one of the greatest strengths of the Internet, but also one of its greatest weaknesses. Predators surf online chat rooms and network communities in search of vulnerable children and teens. The legislation specifies that the crime of sexual enticement of a child can be committed with the Internet. The measure also enables the highway patrol to create a task force to investigate Internet sex crimes against children.

SB 588 is designed to put our children first by ensuring that violators receive punishment that is swift, certain, and severe. This will help make Missouri a safer place to live and to raise a family, which is and will continue to be my top priority as your state senator.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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