



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.

[Website](#) | [Contact Me](#) | [Biography](#) | [Newsroom](#)

Protecting Our Children from Sexual Predators

Earlier this year I promised that the state Legislature would pass a bill to help prevent a parent's worst nightmare from ever happening. As of this week, that promise has been fulfilled.

The Legislature has sent to the Governor House Bill 1698, which calls for stricter mandatory sentences for sexual predators. Under the measure, anyone who commits forcible rape or forcible sodomy on a child who is under the age of 12 will be sentenced to life, with a mandatory minimum of 30 years served before parole will even be an option.

With all the strengths of the high-tech age has come a high risk of our children being sexually preyed upon by those surfing online chat rooms and social-networking communities. The statistics are disturbing and emphasize the need to track down these predators.

“anyone who commits forcible rape or forcible sodomy on a child who is under the age of 12 will be sentenced to life, with a mandatory minimum of 30 years served”

A recent report by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children states that of all children ages 10 to 17:

- 1 in 5 children received unwanted online sexual solicitations.
- 1 in 4 was exposed to unwanted online nudity.

- 1 in 17 reported online harassment.
- 1 in 33 reported receiving an aggressive online sexual solicitation.

To counteract these numbers, the measure strengthens laws against cyber predators who use the anonymity provided by the internet to lure in children. The bill specifies that these laws apply even when a sexual predator is communicating with law enforcement posing as a child.

We also approved improvements to the state's sex offender registry including an 800-number to be operated by the highway patrol to make information more accessible. Sex offender registries now have to show any known alias, any available photos, physical descriptions, release date and other new details in addition to information currently available.

With this legislation, we have joined forces as a state to make it clear that Missouri will not tolerate sexual predators who destroy the innocence of defenseless children. The serious sex offenders deserve nothing better than a long sentence behind strong bars, and we lawmakers have done what we can to give these criminals what they deserve.

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>.

Contact Information

Capitol Office
State Capitol Building
Room 323
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Website:
<http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>

Phone Number:
573.751.2459
Fax:
573.522.9289