



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Protecting our Children

Preventing Missouri from being a Safe Haven for Sexual Predators

In little more than a decade, Missouri has made significant strides in strengthening laws against those who prey on our children. But one of the most important steps we took is under threat because of the way our state constitution is worded.

The law in peril is Megan's Law, which went into effect Jan. 1, 1995, requiring all convicted sex offenders to register with local sheriff's departments. Unfortunately, due to conflicting language in the Missouri Constitution, the Missouri Supreme Court this past summer ruled that it is unconstitutional to force sex offenders to register if they were convicted before Megan's Law was enacted. This takes a large number of sexual offenders off of the state registry. In Cape Girardeau alone, nearly 50 sexual predators will no



longer have to keep in contact with the local sheriff's department.

For the 2007 session, I am pre-filing legislation allowing voters to overturn that ruling. The Missouri Constitution is one of only five in the nation that includes wording that essentially protects pre-1995 convicted sex offenders. Even though the court was just

doing its job in preventing unconstitutionality, that doesn't mean those who were found guilty before 1995 are any less dangerous to our children. I want to give Missouri voters the chance to amend the Constitution so those who pose a threat to Missouri families are not allowed to hide under the radar.

I am sure many Missourians join me in not wanting predators to seek refuge in the Show-Me State because a loophole in Missouri's Constitution protects their identity and whereabouts. That is why it is necessary that we strike the problematic language from our state constitution so Megan's Law remains a comprehensive shield for our children.

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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