



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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## Legislature Approves Five New Major Protections for Children

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### *Priorities of Sen. Loudon Make it to Governor's Desk*

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, is praising the recently completed legislative session as productive as five of his priorities to protect children have passed both chambers.

“There is no higher priority of mine than taking care of the children of this state,” said Sen. Loudon, the father of five children. “What we have done in just a just few months of working on protecting children will pay dividends well into the future.”

[House Bill 583](#) will allow victims of child pornography to seek civil damages against those who take pornographic pictures of children. Since the nature of the Internet can keep pictures around long after the physical photographs have been destroyed, victims will be able to sue up to age 31 or within three years of discovering the crime against them.

A portion of [House Bill 818](#) that deals with children with Down syndrome is affectionately known as “Sammy’s Law.” Currently, all pregnant women are tested to see if their babies have Down syndrome. Ninety percent of those children are aborted. National columnist George Will has referred to the practice of killing unborn children suspected of having Down syndrome as a “search and destroy mission” and “eugenics.” Loudon contends that women are not getting some important information before making that decision. His amendment to [HB 818](#) would require doctors to tell their patients how often the testing is wrong. Women would also be told of adoption options available to them and the resources to help them should they keep the babies themselves. The Loudon’s recently adopted a Down syndrome child named Samuel after waiting for 10 years.

Several different laws address the problem of Internet predators. In the budget, the legislature added \$1 million to the Sexual Predators Grant Program to give law enforcement officers the tools and

training to stop those who troll the Internet looking to prey upon children. Under [House Bill 41](#), multi-jurisdictional law enforcement units could get the grant monies to hire and train online detectives and computer forensic experts, as well as purchasing needed equipment and software. Law enforcement would then have the people and the tools to set up operations, such as stings, to catch these suspected criminals.

“The bills we have passed during this 2007 legislative session address issues that affect all children, born and unborn,” said Sen. Loudon. “With these measures, we have taken significant steps to protect them.”

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