

## **MISSOURI SENATE**

John Loudon 7<sup>th</sup> Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

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## Sen. Loudon Encourages Parents to Participate in Internet Safety Night

## MOREnet Hosting National Event Tomorrow Night Between 6:30 and 8:30

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, is applauding the Missouri Research & Education Network's (MOREnet) Internet Safety Night, Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is encouraging parents to get involved in the national online event at <a href="https://www.besafe.more.net/isn/">www.besafe.more.net/isn/</a>.

"The danger of Internet predators is real and growing," said Sen. Loudon. "As a parent of five children myself, I will be participating in tomorrow night's event meant to give parents the tools to help keep our children safe."

MOREnet will host the event from Gentry Middle School in Columbia with students, parents, and members of the community joining from locations across the country through online discussions. They'll talk about online predators, cyber-bullying, identity theft and other Internet-related issues. The local discussions will occur simultaneously all around the country and then connect to the national host site in Columbia for the featured speakers. Those speakers will include: Miss Missouri 2007, Lindsay Casmaer; Chris Pickering, Chief Investigator, Missouri Attorney General's Office; Joel Heinrichs, CEO, Lightspeed Systems, Inc.; Lt. Joe Laramie, Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force; Det. Andy Anderson, Mid-Missouri Internet Crimes Task Force; and John Wood, US Attorney for the Western District of Missouri. Participants at any of the local events will be able to see, hear, ask, and answer questions in real time with participants at any other site.

Locations in the St. Louis area where people can participate in person include: the St. Louis – Cooperating School Districts Conference Room, Lindbergh High School, The Principia, and Bayless School District.

"I'm excited about the opportunity this will give to parents, children, and community leaders," said Sen. Loudon. "I also encourage parents to install filtering software on their home computers to keep their kids off the sites where they shouldn't be and to keep away those who would prey upon children."

More information about tomorrow night's Internet Safety Night is available on the MOREnet web site, <a href="https://www.besafe.more.net/isn/">www.besafe.more.net/isn/</a>.

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