



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 12, 2008**

**Contact: Mike Reid**  
**(573) 751-9763**

## Sen. John Loudon Lauds Boosted Cyber Crime-Fighting Funding

---

### *Budget Draft Allocates Additional Million Dollars To Catch Online Predators*

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Loudon (R-Chesterfield) today announced House Budget Chairman Rep. Allen Icet (R-Wildwood) this week placed and added \$500,000 into the state budget draft to expand the reach and impact of the Internet Cyber Crime Grant (ICCG) program. Rep. Icet’s \$500,000 funding boost, accompanied by an additional \$250,000 recommended by Rep. Danielle Moore (R-Fulton) and a \$250,000 increase proposed by Governor Blunt, make a potential total increase of \$1 million to the program initiated two years ago by Sen. Loudon to make the Internet a safer place for children and people of all ages.

“I applaud Governor Blunt’s initial budget recommendation and I greatly appreciate Rep. Icet’s and Rep. Moore’s move to further increase funding for this important program,” Sen. Loudon said.

Originally funded at \$250,000 in 2006, Sen. Loudon, working with Rep. Icet, last year was able to infuse an added \$1 million into the program, which awards grants to the state’s regional cyber crime-fighting units to help fund added staff and equipment to find and prosecute Internet predators and online purveyors of pornography. Combined, this year’s proposed boost of \$1 million would provide a total of \$2.25 million to the cyber crime-fighting program.

Thanks in major part to the success of the ICCG program – advanced by Sen. Loudon in 2006 – the arrests of cyber predators who target kids have quadrupled from 2006 to 2007, from 26 to 105 cases. For example, in Maryland Heights, 47 arrests were made over a recent 16-month period. In St. Louis County, at least 50 arrests were made during a recent 11-month period.

The increased funding will fill a void in areas of the state that are currently unprotected.

Sen. Loudon noted that this year’s funding recommendation — and the state budget as a whole — must clear the House and then be approved by the Senate for funding proposals to become reality.

“We’re still fairly early in the budget process, but, especially in light of Rep. Icet’s and Rep. Moore’s decisive action, I am optimistic that the vast majority of my lawmaking colleagues will be supporting this expanded cyber crime-fighting funding recommendation,” Sen. Loudon said. “Just two years into operation, we’re finding concrete evidence that the Internet Cyber Crimes Grant program is making a real difference in keeping Missouri children safer from online predators and exploitation.”

###