



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 422  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release:**  
**April 23, 2008**

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

## Sen. Loudon's Child-Protection Bill Advances with House Committee Endorsement *Bill Would Remove Burden on the State to 'Distribute' Child Pornography*

---

JEFFERSON CITY — This week, a child-protection bill sponsored by Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, which would provide more protections for children from sexual predators and overturn a state court ruling that currently requires the state to reproduce child pornography and furnish it to defendants, received approval from a House committee and now heads to the House floor for debate.

“These pictures depict crime scenes in which children were exploited,” Sen. Loudon said. “The state should not be revictimizing these kids.”

Sen. Loudon's Senate Bill 714, which would also expand information included in the state's sex offender registry, strengthen the severity of charges for sex crimes or attempted sex crimes against children and provide more buffers from sexual predators, was endorsed by the House's Crime Prevention & Public Safety Committee.

The comprehensive bill also seeks to overturn a state court ruling that allows defendants or their attorneys involved in child pornography cases to obtain electronic or other copies of alleged child pornography presented during court cases. Under the new law, defendants and their attorneys would only be allowed to view evidence at approved state or governmental facilities.

“I am extremely pleased to see these important child-protection measures are advancing through the House, and I want to commend the committee and its chairman, Rep. Mark Bruns, for agreeing that children are a priority and deserve the fullest protections available to keep them safe from sexual exploitation,” Sen. Loudon said. “Fixing a law that allowed criminals to retrieve

child pornography images for possible redistribution will correct a serious wrong that was making it possible to for sex offenders to continue their injurious pursuit of young kids.”

Under the proposed legislation, new information would be added to the state’s sex offender registry, including: the online identifying information of sexual offenders; the names of juveniles found guilty of certain sexual crimes; the names of sex offenders on similar registries in other states who attend school here; and persons found guilty of conspiring to commit certain sexual offenses.

Other major components of Sen. Loudon’s bill include elevating the penalties for attempted sexual misconduct and attempting to furnish pornographic materials to a minor to the equivalent penalties for committing such crimes. Tougher penalties are also included for possession of child pornography and for failing to register as a sex offender.

Another key measure broadens the admissibility of testimony in court of children under age 14 involved in child pornography cases. Other provisions include banning sex offenders from participating in all Halloween festivities and prohibiting registered sex offenders from other states, countries and offenders from being within 500 feet of schools or child-care facilities. In addition, the proposed changes include providing more Internet training for prosecutors and circuit attorneys.

“Our purpose is to provide law enforcement officials with every available resource to protect our children from sexual predators,” Sen. Loudon said. “We want to keep Missouri as one of the safest places for kids to live and one of the worst places for sexual offenders to reside in or visit.”

###