



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Senator John Loudon Echoes Call to Support Federal Bill Protecting Children from Sexual Predators

*U.S. Senate Bill 1738 Similar to Missouri's New Tough Measures
to Fight Sexual Exploitation of Children*

National 'Protect Our Children Act' Topic of September 15 Oprah Winfrey Show

ST. LOUIS COUNTY — Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, is encouraging Missourians to support a proposed Congressional bill — [U.S. Senate Bill 1738](#) — that closely mirrors Missouri's own efforts to fight Internet predators and child pornographers. Earlier this year, the General Assembly passed Sen. Loudon's [Senate Bill 714](#) — making Missouri's child-protection laws among the toughest in the nation.

“Missouri can feel good that we've already put a law in place similar to what Congress is now considering,” Sen. Loudon said. “Missouri has been tackling this important issue now for a number of years, and I am very pleased it's gaining more public awareness on the Congressional debate floor and on the national stage, such as programs like the Oprah Winfrey show. The most important message we need to convey from all of this is that parental education is key in keeping our kids safe from these types of horrendous crimes.”

Missouri's new law expands the state's sex offender registry, strengthens the severity of charges for sex crimes or attempted sex crimes against children, and provides \$3 million per year for state law enforcement and multi-jurisdictional task forces to go after Internet sexual predators and child pornographers.

The proposed Congressional bill — the “Protect Our Children Act” — is similar to Missouri's recently-passed legislation. The bill would require the U.S. Attorney

General's office to implement a national strategy to combat child exploitation and create a national task force for increasing the capabilities of local and state task forces. Among the features are: improving the national Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and increasing resources for regional computer forensic labs.

With the federal law now under consideration, Sen. Loudon is asking Missourians to contact their Congressional legislators to voice their support of this national child-protection measure. Contact information for our state's U.S. Senators and our region's House Representative follows.

Senator Christopher Bond

7700 Bonhomme, Ste. 615

St. Louis, MO 63105

(314) 725-4484

(314) 727-3548 (fax)

Senator Claire McCaskill

2058 A Delmar

St. Louis, MO 63112

(314) 367-1364

(314) 361-8649 (fax)

U.S. Representative Todd Akin

301 Sovereign Court, Suite 201

St. Louis, MO 63011

(314) 590-0029

(314) 590-0037 (fax)

“By contacting your U.S. legislators, you can join the national fight to protect our children from sexual exploitation,” Sen. Loudon said. “We need all the support we can get to send a convincing message that these types of crimes will not be tolerated and those who harm our children in this way will be punished accordingly.”

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