



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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STATEMENT

By Senator John Loudon on Latest Ruling on SB 714

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Loudon, R-Chesterfield, today issued the following statement on a decision by the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which lets stand key provisions of an omnibus sex crimes bill ([Senate Bill 714](#)). One aspect of the legislation prohibits registered sex offenders from offering candy at their homes on Halloween.

This section specifically requires sex offenders to:

- (1) Avoid all Halloween-related contact with children.
- (2) Remain inside his or her residence between the hours of 5 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.
- (3) Post a sign stating, “No candy or treats at this residence.”
- (4) Leave all outside residential lighting off after 5 p.m.

Violation of any of these provisions could be charged as Class A misdemeanors.

Four Missouri-based sex offenders challenged the constitutionality of this prohibition, which was actively defended by the state’s Attorney General’s office. On Monday, a federal district court blocked enforcement of the first two provisions. Now, all four provisions will be allowed to stand.

“Today’s appeals court ruling nulls the decision made by the federal judge just three days ago. The most important elements of SB 714 will help keep Missouri’s children from harm on Halloween night”

“With trick-or-treat fast approaching, I appreciate the swift action by the court and am heartened to know that this year’s ghosts and goblins will be walking door-to-door under stronger child protection laws.”

-State Senator John Loudon

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