



# MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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## **Sen. Jason Crowell Joins Effort to Support Death Penalty for Violent Sexual Predators**

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JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Jason Crowell, R-Cape Girardeau, joined other members of the General Assembly and the governor in filing a legal brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a Louisiana law allowing the death penalty as an appropriate form of punishment for an individual convicted of child rape.

“I have joined my colleagues in filing this brief to voice my belief that those who commit these horrific crimes against children should receive the most serious punishment we have available,” said Sen. Crowell. “This serves as a way for us to stand with the state of Louisiana and say that we are in support of protecting children throughout the nation.”

The document filed by Sen. Crowell is an *amici curiae*, or “friends of the court” brief and asks the U.S. Supreme Court to clarify rulings the court has made in the past about the death penalty for child rapists. The brief also argues that the court should not preclude a national debate on this issue and allow states to form a consensus.

Legislation has been filed in the Senate this session that would allow anyone convicted of forcible rape or sodomy of a child under the age of 12 to receive the death penalty. The bill would continue the work of House Bill 1698, which the General Assembly passed in 2006. The law mandates a lifetime sentence with a minimum of 30 years for serious sexual crimes committed against young children and calls for certain sex offenders to be monitored for the duration of their lives.

“It is a necessity for us to make sure that innocent children in this state are protected and those who wish to do them harm are punished,” said Sen. Crowell. “The progress we have made so far has made a difference in the safety of children in Missouri, but we must continue to look for and implement ways to continue this work.”

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