



NEWS

**From the Office of
Representative Bob Dixon**

140th District

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House Adopts Dixon's Online Predator Language

Jefferson City – An amendment to the Jessica's Law bill (HB 1698) aimed at catching online child predators was offered by Representative Bob Dixon (R-Springfield) and adopted by the House this week. The amendment would establish a panel to create a program that would award grants to internet cyber-crime law enforcement task forces, helping police to catch dangerous internet predators before they have a chance to harm children. The language is identical to Dixon's HB 1672.

Senator John Loudon (R-Chesterfield) has introduced similar legislation in the Missouri Senate. "This will help protect our children from dangerous internet predators by putting more police officers on the front lines," stated Senator Loudon.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that of all children ages 10 to 17:

- 1 in 5 received an unwanted online sexual solicitation
- 1 in 4 were exposed to unwanted online nudity
- 1 in 17 reported online harassment
- 1 in 33 reported receiving an aggressive online sexual solicitation

HB 1672 was heard in the House Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety last week. Law enforcement officials from across the state testified in its favor. Dixon offered it as an amendment to HB 1698 on Tuesday night while the House was debating Missouri's version of the Jessica's Law bill.

"I wanted to do everything I could to get this legislation passed," said Dixon. "The safety of our children is a priority to me, and I will continue to work for safer streets, neighborhoods and chat rooms."

HB 1698 is sponsored by Scott Lipke (R-Jackson), who serves as Chairman of the Crime Prevention and Public Safety Committee. "One of the biggest challenges was bringing all of the good ideas into one bill and Representative Dixon's amendment will certainly have a significant impact on helping protect our children," said Rep. Lipke.

Rep. Bob Dixon, a Republican, was elected in 2002 to represent the 140th district, which includes southeastern Greene County. In 2004 he was elected by his Republican House colleagues to serve as the Majority Caucus Chairman. He is the 6th ranking Republican in the house.

