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## **House Passes Two Gillmor Bills Targeting Sex Offenders**

**WASHINGTON, DC-** The U.S. House of Representatives passed two bills today sponsored by Congressman Paul E. Gillmor (R- Old Fort). Gillmor's bills to create a national sex offender database and a national classification system were included in the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act which unanimously passed the House.

"I am very happy that the House of Representatives moved so quickly to pass both of my bills today. Tracking sex offenders and enabling citizens with the knowledge to defend themselves are important to protecting our families," Gillmor said.

Gillmor's first bill to create a national sex offender database is named Dru's Law after Dru Sjodin, a 22-year-old North Dakota college student who was killed in 2003 by a sex offender who had served 23 years behind bars for rape. Dru's killer lived as a registered sex offender only minutes across the border in Minnesota and was unknown to the citizens and authorities of North Dakota. Gillmor's legislation uses existing law enforcement records to produce a nationwide registry available to anyone with Internet access. If enacted, users will be able to choose the geographic radius in which to search the location of predators in the area. The ultimate goal is to produce consistent records which offer the same information to users from New York to California.

"In order to effectively protect our loved ones, we must provide the American public with unfettered access to know who these dangerous criminals are and where they are living. If a picture is worth a thousand words, than a comprehensive nationwide publicly accessible database is worth at least that many lives," Gillmor said.

Gillmor's second bill, the Safe NOW Act of 2006 was introduced just last week. This bill would establish a National Sex Offender Risk Classification Task Force to create guidelines for a risk-based sex offender classification system. Sex offenders would be classified based on the threat of danger they pose to the public and that classification would allow law enforcement agencies to identify the most dangerous offenders.

"Today, sex offenders are classified on a state-by-state basis. However, classifications differ widely and can result in inconsistent and unreliable classifications across state lines. When dealing with these criminals, uniformity can mean the difference between life and death," Gillmor said.

"For more than two years, I have been working to enact legislation creating a national sex offender database. During this time, I learned that our nation was also lacking national classifications for sex offenders and I wrote legislation last week to correct this inconsistency. Both of these bills are necessary to empower both our law enforcement officers with uniform

guidelines and our neighbors with the knowledge to protect their families and loved ones,” Gillmor said.

In addition to Gillmor’s provisions, the Children’s Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act also included other important bill including provisions to:

- Ensure sex offenders register and keep current where they reside, work and attend school;
- Improve verification systems for sex offender information;
- Ensure states notify each other when sex offender moves to another state;
- Protect foster children from sexual abuse and exploitation;
- Increase penalties for crimes against victims, witnesses, jurors, and informants;
- Help protect immediate family members by enhancing criminal penalties.

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