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Bill Targeting Child Sex Predators Clears Senate Unanimously **“Alicia’s Law” Speeds Prosecution of Sexual Exploitation of Children**

MADISON – “Alicia’s Law,” which streamlines the process of finding sex predators of children online, cleared the State Senate on a unanimous vote today. Senate Bill 546 now moves to the Assembly, where its prospects are in question.

“This bill is probably the most important piece of legislation we will pass this year,” said Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine). “I have prayed every night since I heard the horrible stories of bondage, torture and rape of children that this bill would pass. We must do everything we can to prevent these heinous crimes.”

In a crime where every second counts, Alicia’s Law streamlines the steps to identify the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses of sex predators. Knowing the location these IP addresses let investigators know where a crime is being committed before the IP address is lost. Senate Bill 546 provides for judicial review of that step, which allows for investigators to begin gathering information to obtain a search warrant to get evidence of the crimes.

“These crimes aren’t just taking pictures of naked children,” Wanggaard added. “These are live Internet broadcasts of the rape and torture of children under the age of 12, including infants. Literally, every moment spent on paperwork trying to rescue these children is another moment that a child is being victimized. When seconds count, rescuers cannot be hours away.”

Unfortunately, this crime is all too common in Wisconsin. In 2008, 7,000 unique Wisconsin computers were used to access the videos of these crime scene recordings of very young children. As shocking as that number is, research shows that more than half of child pornography possessors are hands-on offenders. That means that thousands of Wisconsin children are being tortured at any given time. Unfortunately, investigators of these crimes are hopelessly outnumbered.

“Let me be clear – removing the administrative subpoena in this bill will put children at risk and protect child rapists,” said Wanggaard. “Forgive my frankness, but these children cannot wait, and the Assembly cannot delay sending this bill to the Governor in its entirety.”

Senate Bill 546 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Joint Committee on Finance, and the Senate with unanimous support. The bill’s prospects in the Assembly are in question. Senator Wanggaard is asking people to call their Representatives and urge them to pass the bill as is.

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