

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 454

Encouraging the AMBER Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice to include within the minimum standards established pursuant to the PROTECT Act a specific criterion for issuance of an alert through the AMBER Alert communications network.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## RESOLUTION

Encouraging the AMBER Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice to include within the minimum standards established pursuant to the PROTECT Act a specific criterion for issuance of an alert through the AMBER Alert communications network.

Whereas approximately 797,500 children are reported missing each year, according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the United States Department of Justice;

Whereas 74 percent of abducted children who are murdered are dead within 12 hours of the abduction, and therefore a quick response is essential to the safe recovery of abducted children;

Whereas local, State, and Federal law enforcement officials log countless hours in their commendable recovery efforts in each missing child case;

Whereas law enforcement officials should be afforded every means available to help recover missing children;

Whereas the America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (referred to in this resolution as "AMBER") Alert communications network has led to the recovery of over 100 missing children since the network's inception at the local level in 1996;

Whereas the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 promote national coordination of the AMBER Alert communications network;

Whereas more than half of the 100 recoveries made by the AMBER Alert communications network have been made since the national coordination efforts began;

Whereas using the AMBER Alert communications network in the hours after a child's disappearance makes the safe recovery of the child much more likely than if the network is not used, and therefore the network is an effective tool for the location of missing children in the crucial hours after a child's disappearance;

Whereas these facts demonstrate the importance of the new relationships between Federal and State authorities in developing and expanding the AMBER Alert communications network;

Whereas an expansion of the criteria suggested by the AMBER Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice for local law enforcement officials to use when deciding

whether to issue an alert through the AMBER Alert communications network would greatly aid in the safe recovery of missing children; and

Whereas preserving the discretion of local law enforcement officials in deciding when to issue an alert through the AMBER Alert communications network also contributes to the safe recovery of missing children: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives encour-  
 2 ages the AMBER Alert Coordinator of the Department  
 3 of Justice to include within the minimum standards estab-  
 4 lished pursuant to the Prosecutorial Remedies and Other  
 5 Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today Act of  
 6 2003 the following criterion for issuance of an alert  
 7 through the AMBER Alert communications network: If  
 8 law enforcement officials reasonably believe that a child's  
 9 welfare is in danger, such officials shall issue an alert  
 10 through the AMBER Alert communications network if the  
 11 child has been missing for 6 or more hours. A determina-  
 12 tion of reasonable belief that a child's welfare is in danger  
 13 shall not require specific knowledge of an abduction, but  
 14 shall require facts tending to show that the child may have  
 15 been abducted based on the particular circumstances.

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