DELETING ONLINE PREDATORS

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Deleting Online Predators Act of 2007, H.R. 1120. This legislation is a critical step to empower parents to exercise more control over what their children do on the Internet and to protect them from Internet predators.

In Lake County, IL, we have seen what can happen when Internet predators are able to make contact with children. In October 2005, Joseph Caprigno molested a 14 year-old boy he met on the Internet. Caprigno, a 40 year-old man, arranged to meet the boy in a 7–11 parking lot in an Internet chat room. In January a 20 year-old man, Michael Zbonski, molested a 16 year-old girl he met on MySpace.com. Frighteningly, not only did he communicate with this girl for 2 years on the Internet, he admitted to having a sexual relationship with one of the victim's underage friends.

The Deleting Online Predators Act is a commonsense piece of legislation designed to empower parents to play a more active role in their children's activities online. The bill calls on the Federal Trade Commission to issue consumer alerts and establish a unique Web site to better educate parents as to the dangers posed by Internet predators. Parents are the first and most important line of defense against these predators, and it is imperative to arm them with timely and accurate information to protect their children.

This bill also requires schools to prevent children from accessing social networking Web sites and chat rooms unless they are doing so for a legitimate educational purpose and are under adult supervision. It also requires public libraries to prevent children from accessing these Web sites unless they have the permission of a parent. I believe this is an entirely appropriate action to help parents determine what their children can and cannot do online. It seems foolish for the taxpayer to subsidize what amounts to a loophole by which children can circumvent their parent's wishes and unwittingly expose themselves to Internet predators.

Madam Speaker, Lake County also offers one more case that plainly demonstrates the need for this legislation. The Lake County State's Attorney recently filed Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse charges against two teachers who are accused of soliciting and arranging to molest underage students at the school where they taught. Jason Glick and James Lobitz didn't just molest two underage students, they arranged to do so using school-owned computer equipment and resources during school hours.

The cases against Jason Glick and James Lobitz are still pending, but by passing this bill, we can send a message to parents that just as we wouldn't allow sexual predators to roam the halls of a school, we will not allow them to infiltrate our schools over the Internet.

RECOGNIZING UWCHLAN TOWNSHIP POLICE CHIEF PATRICK DAVIS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Uwchlan Township Police Chief Patrick Davis upon his retirement after more than 30 years of dedicated service to the people of Chester County and southeastern Pennsylvania.

Chief Davis has been one of the most prominent and important law enforcement officials in the 6th Congressional District, a trustworthy member of our public safety community and shining example of a selfless public service.

Chief Davis' broad range of experience and knowledge about the community was forged during more than three decades fighting crime in southeastern Pennsylvania. His distinguished career began in 1976 as a patrol officer with the Thornbury Township Police Department. A year later, he joined the Uwchlan Township Police Department, the start of an outstanding career that saw him rise through the ranks before eventually becoming chief of police in 1994.

As police chief in Uwchlan Township, he oversaw the actions of 26 full-time employees and helped keep our neighborhoods, streets and schools safe from crime and violence. I'm sure his son Andrew and wife Kathy are as proud of him as we are.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in celebrating the exemplary career of Uwchlan Township Police Chief Patrick Davis. I'd like to personally thank him for his years of distinguished service to the community and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO A LIFETIME OF SERVICE BY MR. LESTER FOX OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 16, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding citizen of South Bend, Indiana, Lester J. Fox, who devoted his life to the service of his community. During the 1940's he served as a union leader at the Studebaker Corporation which led him to a new career as advocate for the unemployed, the elderly and the underserved.

He became director of Project ABLE in 1963 after the closing of the Studebaker plant, the largest employer in South Bend at the time. The experimental project developed and implemented a network of services for the many unemployed older workers left in the wake of this economic disaster.

With the newly created "War on Poverty" in 1965, Fox established the Regional Office of Economic Opportunity in Atlanta, Georgia, implementing the Economic Opportunity Act in six southeastern states over a two year period.

Fox returned to South Bend to become President and CEO of REAL Services, Inc., an organization that assesses the status and needs of the older adult population in Saint Joseph County. The agency's role was broadened twice, once to include the area Agency on Aging in five North Central Indiana counties, administering the Older American's Act and legislation related to the aged and disabled, and again in 1990, to manage the Community Action Agency serving low-income families.

Lester Fox has been awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest honor bestowed by governors of Indiana, on four separate occasions by four different governors. In 1996, Les was inducted into the South Bend Community Hall of Fame.

Fox has served on numerous boards, has been a member of the White House Conference on Aging, and was a Consultant to the U.S. Senate Committee on Aging.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of northern Indiana, I thank Les Fox for his years of unselfish dedication. As he retires from 40 years as President of REAL Services, I pay special tribute to a man who exemplifies self sacrifice and serves as a role model for us all.