



Parents for Megan's Law and The Crime Victims

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PRESS RELEASE

US Senators and Representatives Secure \$ 593,000 Federal Grant for Parents for Megan's Law for Sex Offender Community Email Alert with Mapping for Long Island and Nation And Support Services for Child and Adult Victims of Sex Crimes And other Violent Offenses Plus Prevention Education

- Federal Grant To PFML/CVC Enhances Community Notification and Victims Services -

March 3, 2008

Joined by United States Senate and Congressional Representatives, Parents for Megan's Law and the Crime Victims Center announced today the receipt of a \$593,000.00 Federal Grant to implement the nation's first federally funded sex offender email alert program. The Federal Grant will also expand the National Megan's Law Helpline and increase the support services that PFML and the CVC provide to child and adult victims of sexual assault and all innocent victims of violent crime.

Background

There are over 614,000 sex offenders registered in the nation. The new sex offender email alert program will allow users to register, by any zip code, the alerts they would like to receive when a sex offender moves into a community anywhere in the nation. The radius search will visually display sex offenders in relation to schools, parks and day care centers within ¼ mile and up to 5 miles. Funding will also be used to expand the National Megan's Law Helpline which supports communities receiving notifications by educating about responsible use of information and sexual assault prevention.

The Federal Grant will also increase the support services that PFML and the CVC provide to **child and adult victims of sexual assault and all innocent victims of violent crime.**

Laura A. Ahearn Executive Director of Parents for Megan's Law and the Crime Victims Center applauded Congressional Representatives Bishop, Israel, King and McCarthy and Senators Schumer and Clinton noting that this delegation has made child protection a top priority and has taken the lead on passing federal legislation to strengthen sex offender registration and notification laws, providing services to child and adult victims of sex offenses and other violent crimes and ensuring that communities are educated about sexual abuse prevention."

Parents for Megan's Law initiated the nation's first and only National Megan's Law Helpline with assistance from United States Senator Charles E. Schumer. Research from this program was utilized to craft the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act of 2006. **United States Senator Charles E. Schumer stated**, "For years, I have fought to secure the federal resources necessary to safeguard Long Island's communities from sex offenders. This critical funding will allow Parents for Megan's Law to continue and expand their renowned National Sex Offender and Prevention Helpline and Crime Victims Center Advocacy program. With dangerous predators continuing to prey on vulnerable children, the new funding will provide us with the tools we need to remain vigilant and proactive in protecting them."

Communities rely upon the support of Parents for Megan's Law through collaboration with criminal justice and other government agencies to protect our most vulnerable. "I am very pleased that the Megan's Law Sex Offender Information and Prevention Helpline and Crime Victim Center will receive the funding needed to carry out their important work on Long Island," **United States Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton** said. "This support, which is vital for strengthening and expanding these critical public safety resources, will help ensure that our communities are kept well informed and that our children are protected."

Parents for Megan's Law has become a National voice for the community, for protecting our most vulnerable, for victim services and for prevention education. The expanded email alert and mapping program will further help communities protect children from predators. **United States Congressman Timothy H. Bishop**, a strong supporter of implementing comprehensive approaches to sexual abuse prevention stated, "We need to do all we can to combat sexual predators who stalk our children and I am pleased to help secure this funding so Parents for Megan's Law can continue to be a national leader in efforts to protect children."

Congressman Steve Israel, a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful committees in Congress, recognizes the important role that Parents for Megan's Law, the community, parents and lawmakers all have in protecting our most vulnerable. "Parents can never be too vigilant when it comes to protecting their children from sex offenders," said Congressman Israel. "But we must continue to expand and sharpen the resources available to them. This innovative mapping and email alert system will provide another critical tool for parents as they continue to safeguard their children."

With over 600,000 registered sex offenders in the United States organizations like Parents for Megan's Law ensure that, communities are made aware of dangerous predators, educated about prevention and services are provided to those that were victimized. "Parents for Megan's Law has done an outstanding job of raising awareness and combating child predators on Long Island." said **United States Congressman Peter King**. "I am pleased I was able to help secure funding for their fight to keep dangerous predators out of our neighborhoods and away from our children."

Preventing sexual abuse requires that we educate parents and teach children specific skills to protect themselves. This funding will not only provide valuable information to parents and community members but will assist Parents for Megan's Law in their prevention education initiatives. **Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy** stated, "This is an important grant for Long Island families. Long Islanders have paid more in federal taxes than we receive in federal resources, but this grant is an investment in our kids' safety."
