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SAFENOWPROJECT SALUTES MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR THEIR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF A LANDMARK SEX OFFENDER AND CHILD PROTECTION BILL

HUMPHREYS, MO... Today is a big day, not only for SAFENOWPROJECT, but for the protection of children and families across the country. President Bush will be signing into law HR 4472, known as the "Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006", a bill viewed by many as the most comprehensive sex offender management and child safety legislation passed in decades. According to the SAFENOWPROJECT's Founder Margaret Bullens, HR 4472 is unique because "not only does it improve our nation's current sex offender registration and community notification laws, but it develops opportunities for our country to better understand the problem of sexual violence and look toward the development of new strategies and resources to hold sex predators accountable, while protecting known and potential victims and offering hope and new opportunities for proactive prevention."

The SAFENOWPROJECT is a national 501c3 nonprofit organization, incorporated in northern Missouri, that creates, promotes and advocates community-based strategies and resources to eliminate child sexual abuse. Our organization has played a significant role in providing ongoing education about the benefits, limitations and unintended consequences of the many proposed bills by members of Congress that ultimately led to the overall compilation of HR 4472.

We are happy to report that many members of Congress listened and took action based on our education and advocacy efforts that began with the development of a "Legislative Wish-list" in 2005. Along with our support of HR 4472 (which includes the national sex offender registry), we asked that Congress create a risk-based classification system to allow law enforcement and the public-at-large an opportunity to better understand the varied levels of risks posed by the 500,000+ sex offenders on the registry, and perhaps more importantly, ensure that our limited resources are focused specifically on the predatory offenders who pose the greatest threat in our communities. Congressman Paul Gillmor (OH) took the initiative to add a study to define this risk-based classification system to HR 4472, and also introduced it as a stand-alone bill "SAFE NOW ACT of 2006", otherwise referred to as HR 4815. After much debate between the Senate and House, there was unanimous support for HR 4472, along with language added by Congressman Gillmor that addresses risk classification that can be found in Section 637 of the new law.

Instead of heading to DC to attend the bill signing, SAFENOWPROJECT is headed to Kansas City, the organization's future planned headquarters, to film an educational video focused on our TAKE FIVE™ program which is slated to be incorporated as an upcoming module in the national Neighborhood Watch toolkit soon to be released by the National Sheriffs' Association. For more information visit the SAFENOWPROJECT website: www.safeNOWproject.org.