

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2009

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski, Chairwoman
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

In the wake of a number of high-profile child kidnapping, molestation and murder crimes in 2004 – 2005, Congress worked to combine and strengthen three existing federal child protection laws and ultimately to pass the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act (“the Adam Walsh Act”). This strongly bipartisan legislation passed by unanimous consent in the Senate and by voice vote in the House. It was signed into Public Law 109-248 on July 27, 2006.

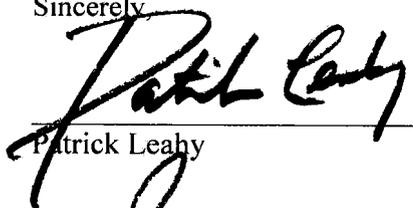
The Adam Walsh Act authorized many important programs and efforts, including the Big Brothers/Big Sisters youth mentoring program, Police Athletic Leagues, a pilot program for the electronic monitoring of sex offenders that provides law enforcement the resources to carry out the program, the Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program or project grants, crime prevention grants for public outreach, the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, a voluntary fingerprinting database for children, the U.S. Marshals Service's Fugitive Safe Surrender Program, and such sums as necessary for programs including Project Safe Childhood grants, sex offender apprehension grants, the Jessica Lunsford Address Verification Grant Program, DNA backlog grants, grants for a public awareness campaign on internet safety, sex offender management assistance, and sex offender treatment management programs.

With 37 co-sponsors in the Senate, the program funding levels in the Adam Walsh Act were overwhelmingly supported by Senators from both parties. Unfortunately, many of the programs authorized by the Adam Walsh Act did not receive funding in the FY 2008 Omnibus. Though we were pleased that funding was included for several programs in the FY 2009 Omnibus, the funding for many still remained short of the full authorized levels. The sums authorized by the Act are necessary to fulfill the stated intent of the law.

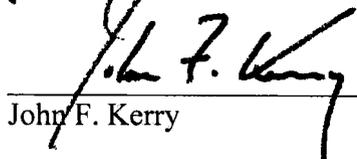
Programs under the Adam Walsh Act help keep our children safe from those who would threaten their health, emotional well-being and lives. We request that funding for these important programs be provided in the FY 2010 appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Patrick Leahy



John F. Kerry



Mike Crapo



Sheldon Whitehouse



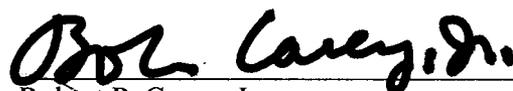
John D. Rockefeller



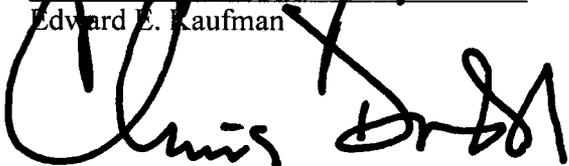
Herb Kohl



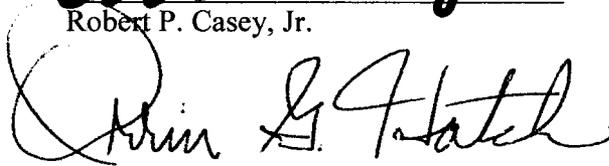
Edward E. Kaufman



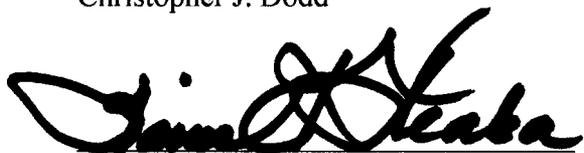
Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Christopher J. Dodd



Orrin G. Hatch



Daniel K. Akaka



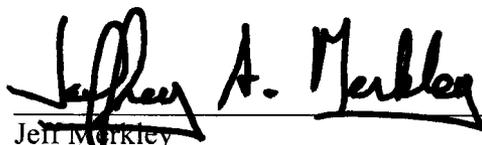
Bernard Sanders



Benjamin L. Cardin



Ron Wyden



Jeff Merkley



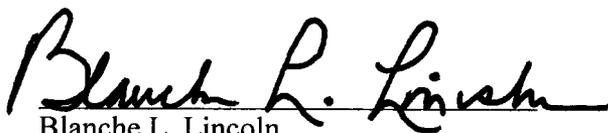
Debbie Stabenow



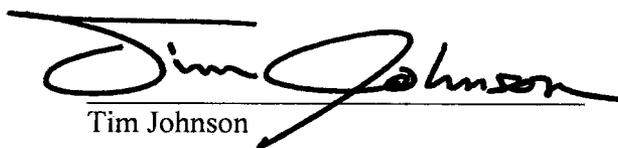
Charles E. Schumer



Barbara Boxer



Blanche L. Lincoln



Tim Johnson

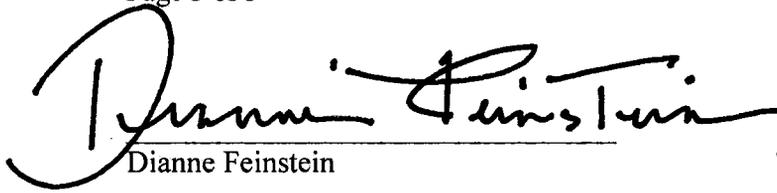


Max Baucus



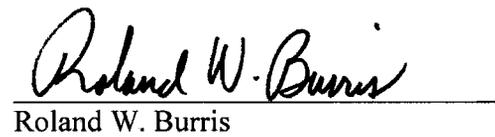
Claire McCaskill

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
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Dianne Feinstein


Kirsten E. Gillibrand


Bill Nelson


Roland W. Burris

cc: The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations