



**PROTECT**

P.O. Box 27599  
Knoxville, TN 37927  
(865) 525-0901  
www.protect.org

April 16, 2012

The Honorable John Cornyn  
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

I am writing to express PROTECT's strong support for the Justice for Victims Amendment.

This amendment to the Violence Against Women Act will create needed penalty enhancements for several crimes, including child trafficking and domestic violence. It would also begin to address the nation's outrageous and unacceptable backlog of rape kits, by reforming how the Justice Department allocates existing resources.

PROTECT has members in all 50 states and around the world. As you know, we have focused on addressing the magnitude of online child exploitation. The PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, which we initiated (and which had 61 Senate sponsors) exposed the magnitude of this problem both domestically and abroad and mandated increased transparency and accountability by the U.S. Department of Justice and the agencies it funds.

We also want to thank you for including an important provision granting the US Marshals Service administrative subpoena power to track unregistered sex offenders. Since 1993, the national trend to use public registration in lieu of meaningful containment and supervision has threatened community safety. Aggressively pursuing those who fail to comply is thus an especially valuable public safety strategy. PROTECT is intimately familiar with the work of the Service and can attest to the hard work and success that office has tracking and apprehending child predators.

We thank you for continued leadership in the battle to protect American Children. The Justice for Victims Amendment is a much-needed advance in this battle. We look forward to working with you to secure passage of this amendment to champion the re-authorization of VAWA.

Sincerely,

Grier Weeks  
Executive Director

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