



Capitol Watch

MADDOX MONTHLY

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LOCAL TRAGEDY SPURS BILL PACKAGE

California Needs Amber Alert

On July 25, a bi-partisan group of legislators held a Sacramento press conference in response to the horrific murder of Samantha Runnion. I was pleased to participate and announce the introduction of five bills that will improve California's response to crimes against children.

Perhaps the most important is AB 415, which I have jointly authored with Assemblyman George Runner. Known as the Amber Alert Plan, the bill would allow law enforcement to use the Emergency Alert System when a child is abducted.

Governor Davis recently asserted that a similar pilot project in Orange County worked "perfectly." The Governor is wrong. Law enforcement quickly notified the media, but because the program is voluntary most television and radio stations chose to wait until their news hour to notify viewers. Who knows if this could have made a difference to Samantha?

AB 415 would require local media stations to participate, as they do with the existing Emergency Alert System.



*This evening I will join Senator Dick Ackerman at the Plummer Auditorium to host **Escape School**, a nationally acclaimed safety program that teaches children critical abduction prevention and life-saving tips on how to survive the unthinkable. If you are interested, please join us in Fullerton at 201 East Chapman Avenue at 7 PM.*



Project Kid Safe

The following bills were introduced at the press conference. Most measures are not new to the process, having been defeated in committee by Liberal legislators. I am hopeful that given these recent events, Democrat members will reconsider their opposition.

- **AB 2592 (Maddox):** Adds those convicted of misdemeanor sexual offenses, including child molestation, to the state's DNA database. Currently only felony offenses are added.
- **AB 415 (Runner/Maddox):** Allows law enforcement to use the Emergency Alert System to notify citizens when a child has been kidnapped.
- **AB 1858 (Hollingsworth):** Allows law enforcement officers from various jurisdictions to jointly target habitual sexual offenders for proactive surveillance and arrest if Megan's law requirements are violated.
- **AB 1141 (La Suer):** Makes it a crime to intentionally solicit children over the Internet with the intent of engaging in sexual conduct or abuse.
- **AB 2463 (Pescetti):** Creates a one-strike punishment for felony sex-offenses committed against children.

If you have questions about these bills, feel free to contact my Capitol office at 916-319-2068.

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