

THE SURVIVING PARENTS COALITION

**Thank you for all of your calls and letters!
S.1738 the PROTECT OUR CHILDREN ACT passed Congress!!!**

"The Oprah Winfrey Show" Viewers, The National Association to Protect Children and The Surviving Parents Coalition Pass Landmark Anti-Child Pornography Bill

WASHINGTON, October 1, 2008 - Less than two weeks after "The Oprah Winfrey Show" revealed that U.S. law enforcement has the technology to locate and rescue hundreds of thousands of child sexual abuse victims, Congress has passed a landmark bill to respond to the crisis.

Nearly half a million Americans flooded Capitol Hill with phone calls and emails in recent days, after Winfrey demanded action on her September 15 show, calling for passage of the bipartisan PROTECT Our Children Act (S. 1738). The bill paves the way for a massive increase in law enforcement spending to combat child exploitation.

"Thank you to the 60 senators, Republican and Democrat, who co-sponsored this bill, and the nearly half a million of you, moms and dads, who went to Oprah.com to make your voices heard. It worked," said Winfrey in last Friday's episode of the "Oprah" show. She added, "All of you proved that people really can make a difference."

"This legislation is the truest form of child abuse prevention," said Grier Weeks, Executive Director of PROTECT, a grassroots child protection lobby who worked for passage of the legislation. "The impact of this bill will be measured in lives saved, as child sexual assault victims are located and pulled to safety across America."

Ed Smart, president of the Surviving Parents Coalition, a group of parents whose children were abducted by sexual predators, but who now advocate for child safety, said "The bipartisan efforts and compromise of both parties over the past two weeks has been outstanding."

Proponents of the legislation have long argued that federal inaction on child pornography trafficking was endangering hundreds of thousands of children. Investigators can now track child pornography trafficking back through the Internet to locate criminals who prey on children. Law enforcement experts say that in 30-40 percent of child pornography cases, they find local child victims, making rescue possible.

Last year, investigators identified over 300,000 computers trafficking in brutal movies and images of child rape and abuse, yet less than two percent were investigated, due to lack of funding.

"We are drowning in a tidal wave of tragedy," Agent and noted law enforcement child pornography expert Flint Waters told Congress last year. "We don't have the resources we

need to save these children." Agent Waters was featured on the September 15 episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

The bipartisan PROTECT Our Children Act was sponsored by Senators Joe Biden (D-DE) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and by Reps. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Joe Barton (R-TX). Following the September 15th "Oprah" show, the number of Senate sponsors swelled from 19 to 60, helping to ensure passage.

"Now the real campaign begins," said the Surviving Parents Coalition's Ed Smart today. "The funding must be appropriated for the PROTECT Our Children Act and those implementing this legislation must have no hidden agenda other than the most effective effort of stopping this scourge."

Oprah's long-standing commitment to children led her to initiate the National Child Protection Act in 1991, when she testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee to establish a national database of convicted child abusers. On December 20, 1993, the "Oprah Bill" was signed into law. In 2005, Oprah launched "Oprah's Child Predator Watch List" and her pledge to provide a \$100,000 reward per case to those individuals who the FBI or local law enforcement officials say provided critical information leading to the capture and arrest of fugitives featured on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" or Oprah.com. Since its launch, nine of the featured fugitives have been captured.

The Surviving Parents Coalition (SPC)

Magi and John Bish, Sharon Brooks, Rosemarie D'Alessandro, Rebecca DeMauro, Michelle Duffey, Karen Foster, Mary Kozakiewicz, Mika Moulton, Colleen Nick, AHmad Rivazfar, Erin Runnion, Mark and Cindy Sconce,

In honor of the suffering of our children:

Molly Bish, Tamara Brooks, Joan D'Alessandro, Andi Brewer, Miranda Gaddis, Bonnie Craig, Alicia Kozakiewicz, Christopher Meyer, Morgan Nick, Sara and Sayeh Rivazfar, Samantha Runnion, Courtney Sconce, Elizabeth Smart, Kelsey Smith, Dru Sjodin and the countless other victims of sexually violent predators

The Surviving Parents Coalition

<http://www.survivingparentscoalition.org>

To learn exactly what S.1738 will do please visit:

www.PROTECT.org