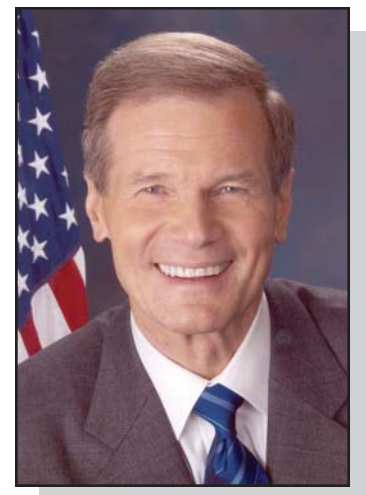


From Washington D. C.

# Legislative News for PBA



*Bill Nelson*  
U.S. Senator

## Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act May Soon Become Reality

Twenty-eight years ago, **Adam Walsh**, the son of **John and Revé Walsh**, was murdered by a sex offender in Hollywood, Florida.

Three years ago, **Jessica Lunsford** and **Sarah Lunde** were murdered within weeks of each other in Florida by convicted sex offenders who had slipped into the shadows and beyond the reach of law enforcement.

These events helped to spur action by the Congress, in the form of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), there are currently more than 100,000 sex offenders who have failed to register as required under the Adam Walsh Act.

At the time it was passed, the Adam Walsh Act was the toughest and most comprehensive sex offender bill of its kind, and it included a number of provisions to strengthen federal laws to protect our children from sexual and other violent crimes, prevent child pornography, and make the Internet safer for our sons and daughters by hiring 250 additional U.S. Marshals.

I authored a key provision in the law to provide grants to aid state and local governments in purchasing electronic monitoring systems so that law enforcement officials have real time information on the whereabouts of sex offenders released from prison to within ten feet of their location.

This technology gives law enforcement the ability to restrict the movements of sex offenders by programming these systems to alert authorities if a sex offender goes to a park, amusement park, elementary school or other areas determined to be off-limits. The ankle-bracelets used to monitor their movements are tamper proof and alert law enforcement in the event that an offender has removed it so

law enforcement can immediately act to apprehend the offender.

I believe it is important that the federal government support state and local law enforcement in Florida and throughout the nation to address this problem. To be effective, tough laws on sexual predators of children must be properly funded.

Until now, however, the Adam Walsh Act was just a promise, because, although Congress has authorized \$250 million in funding over five years to implement the law, the President has never actually requested funding.

That may finally change. Congress just passed the 2008

Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill. For the first time since the law was passed, the promise of the bill can become a reality. Included in the appropriations measure is \$50 million in funding that would allow the United States Marshall's Service (USMS) to carry out important provisions authorized in the Adam Walsh Act. Among the programs that would be funded is the USMS Regional Fugitive Task Forces, which would charge the USMS to track down and apprehend the "worst of the worst," as they prey on those who cannot protect themselves.

This funding comes not a moment too soon. These tragedies of our past are even more pressing today because our children are increasingly threatened by sexual predators on-line. This bill will make it harder for sexual predators to reach our children by authorizing taskforces that help prevent the exploitation of minors on the Internet.

Now that Congress has provided funds for the bill, it is my sincere hope that the President will now approve this vital funding. Once that happens, we can finally fulfill our commitment to protect our children from exploitation and danger. ■

*"At the time it was passed, the Adam Walsh Act was the toughest and most comprehensive sex offender bill of its kind..."*

*I am proud to represent Floridians in the U.S. Senate, where one of my goals is to make sure our state receives its fair share of federal funds. These funds give our cities and communities the tools necessary to improve the quality of life for all Floridians. And as law enforcement now plays a greater role in the fight against terror, I understand the importance of making sure you receive adequate federal resources.*



## Florida PBA Is Proud Sponsor of the 2008 Florida Police & Fire Games

It's that time of the year again, when law enforcement's best gather to test their athletic skills. In an attempt to capture the gold, officers from all over the great State of Florida will compete in over 40 events in Sarasota, Florida starting June 15-21.

(By the way, the Sarasota County S.O. and the Sarasota P.D. are both represented by the Florida PBA with collective bargaining.) There will be competition in: 3 Point Shot Contest, Archery, Arm Wrestling, Basketball, Redfish Tournament, Baseball, Bench Press, Billiards, Bowling, Pistol, Chess, Combat Challenge, Cross Country Run, Cycling, Darts, Dominos, Field & Track, Flag Football, Golf / Golf Scramble, Grappling (Submission Wrestling), Half Marathon, Horseshoes, Karate/Kata, Mounted Police, Mountain Bike, Poker, Powerlifting, Practical Shooting, Racquetball, Roller Hockey (Iron-man), Shotgun, Skeet, Soccer (Indoor), Softball, Sporting Clays, Swimming, Table Tennis, Ten-K Road Race, Tennis, Three Gun Match, Toughest Competitor Alive, Trap, Triathlon, Volleyball, and Wrestling. Come support your favorite athletes!

**The Florida PBA is the exclusive law enforcement association sponsor and is proud to announce its continued support for the Florida Police & Fire Games.**

For more information or to register for the games, go to: [www.lawgames.org/Florida%20Page.htm](http://www.lawgames.org/Florida%20Page.htm)

The Florida PBA wishes all participants great success as they compete in their chosen event. Go for the gold! ■

