



# SENATE CONNECTION

Connecting Davie and Rowan Counties with news from  
the Office of Senator Andrew Brock

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Sen. Andrew Brock  
Republican

APRIL 26, 2007

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

RALEIGH, NC

## Senator Brock Supports the Jessica Lunsford Act for North Carolina



*Putting a face to a crime: a  
photo 9 year old Jessica  
Lunsford released by the*

“Today in North Carolina our children are at risk from sexual predators because our laws aren’t tough enough. It’s time that the General Assembly step up, fix our laws, and make sure that people who want to harm our children get the punishment they deserve,” Senator Brock said.

The Senator’s comments come as the General Assembly begins to consider the Jessica Lunsford Act, a bill aimed at increasing the penalties for sexually assaulting children. The bill, which is also known as Jessica’s Law, was inspired by the brutal rape and murder of nine year old Jessica Lunsford in Florida. The tragedy has special significance to North Carolina because Jessica and her family are originally from Gastonia, NC.

Jessica’s Law, which has been adopted in many states and is hugely popular with parents, has unfortunately met with resistance by some members of the General Assembly who prefer electronic monitoring of sex offenders instead of putting them in prison.

“Putting an ankle bracelet on a sex offender isn’t enough. These people violent criminals and are motivated by deep, perverted urges; electronic monitoring won’t do the job. The only sure fire way to keep predators away from our children is to put them in prison. If you want to prevent a repeat of what happened to Jessica, that’s how you do it,” Senator Brock said.



(L-R) Sen. Andrew Brock, Rep. Theresa Esposito, Mark Lunsford, Martha Jenkins, President NCFRW, and Rep. Dale Folwell

## Senator Brock Meets With Mark Lunsford Victims’ Advocate, Father of Jessica Lunsford

This week Senator Brock had the privilege of meeting one of the nation’s foremost victims’ advocates, Mark Lunsford. Mark is the father of Jessica Lunsford and has been traveling the country urging state legislatures to pass versions of Jessica’s Law.

“It was an honor to meet Mark. He’s doing great things to protect children around this country. Unfortunately, he knows better than any of us that if we’re to protect our children we must keep sexual predators away from them. I was very interested in what he had to say and value his opinion. I hope other members of the General Assembly take his suggestions to heart,” Senator Brock said. I encourage everyone interested to join the fight through Jessica’s foundation. [www.jmlfoundation.org](http://www.jmlfoundation.org)

## Senator Brock Co-Sponsors Legislation with Senator Fred Smith to Increase the Penalty for Raping a Child

Senator Brock has joined all nineteen members of the Senate Republican caucus in order to support a bill which would stiffen the penalty for the rape of a child. Senate bill 356 makes the minimum sentence for raping a child under eleven years to sixty months.

“I’m in full support of this bill,” Senator Brock said. “The only way we can really be sure that sexual predators will not strike twice is to keep them away from our children. The rape of a child under eleven is one of the most heinous crimes I can think of and see no reason why someone who perpetrates a crime like that should not, at the very least, spend sixty months in prison. I think we should lock them away for a very long time”

The bill was referred to the Senate Judiciary I Committee on February 27, 2007 and to this this date the Senate Democratic leadership has not scheduled it for a hearing.

## Senator Brock Joins Republican Colleagues in Calling for Stiffer Penalties for Taking Indecent Liberties With a Child

A new bill in the State Senate would increase the penalty for taking indecent liberties with a child and the penalty for taking indecent liberties with a child when the offender is a school official more than four years old than the victim.

“This bill really addresses two problems,” the senator said. “First, it ensures that pedophiles get the punishment they deserve and takes them off the street. Second, it address a problem we’ve seen growing around the country in the last few years: teachers and other school personnel having inappropriate relationships with students. We need to ensure that students feel safe at school and that would-be offenders think twice before they take indecent liberties with a student.”

Like Senate bill 356, Senate bill 675 has been referred to the Senate Judiciary I Committee and has not been scheduled for a hearing by the Senate Democratic leadership.

## Senator Brock Sponsors Bill to Prevent Registered Sex Offenders from Living With Minors

Senator Brock is cosponsoring a bill which would make it illegal for a registered sex offender to live in a home with minor children.

“If there was ever a piece of common sense legislation, this would be it. Having children in such close proximity to predators is just asking for trouble. There’s no good reason why we should have sex predators and children living under the same roof,” Senator Brock said.

Unfortunately, Senate bill 1509, like Senate bills 356 and 675, has been referred to the Senate Judiciary I Committee and has not been scheduled for a hearing.

***“As a legislator one of the most important duties I have is to protect North Carolina’s children from vicious predators. I’m dedicated in finding ways to prevent a repeat of the unspeakable tragedy that the Lunsford family suffered.”***

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