



STATEMENT FROM JOHN WALSH

COFOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN AND HOST OF "AMERICA'S MOST WANTED" ON

HR 1355: CHILD PREDATOR ACT OF 2005

"Jessica Lunsford's tragic abduction and murder, at the hands of a convicted sex offender, shines a very disturbing light on the state of this nation's sex offender registration and community notification laws. Right now, the laws are too weak and they give the advantage to child predators, like John Couey, instead of our precious children and the law enforcement agencies that are charged with protecting them.

I applaud Congressman Poe for recognizing the importance of tougher registration requirements for child sex offenders and stronger penalties for their failure to register. This bill will provide a valuable tool to law enforcement and will help parents protect their children.

The time is now for America to wake up to this serious problem. Legislators must revamp our current laws in order to provide a more comprehensive way of tracking down the hundreds of thousands of child sexual predators who live among us.

I am grateful to Congressman Poe for taking the lead on this critical issue."