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House of Representatives  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: An Act to Further Protect Children**

Dear Representative:

I am writing to ask you to support "An Act to Further Protect Children," a bill that I have co-sponsored with Speaker DiMasi, Chairman O'Flaherty, and all eleven District Attorneys in the Commonwealth. Having spent much of my career as a child abuse prosecutor, I understand the devastating effects of sexual abuse of children, as well as the challenges in prosecuting sexual predators. This legislation provides prosecutors with the tools they need to hold sex offenders accountable for their horrific actions, and thus ensures the safety of our children.

This legislation creates three new child abuse crimes – aggravated forcible rape of a child, aggravated statutory rape of a child, and aggravated assault and battery on a child under the age of 14. All of these new crimes carry minimum mandatory sentences that range from 10 to 15 years in prison.

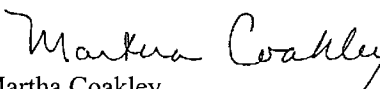
Moreover, this legislation tightens the current laws on repeat offenders by expanding the types of sexual assault crimes that constitute a repeat offense and by increasing the minimum mandatory sentences for repeat offenders. Indeed, under certain circumstances, repeat offenders face a 20-year minimum mandatory sentence.

This bill will also allow prosecutors to issue administrative subpoenas to Internet service providers so that subscriber information is available to track online predators in a timely and effective manner. This is a much-needed tool that updates our current law allowing prosecutors to obtain telephone records.

This legislation is the result of thoughtful analysis and vetting by my office, the eleven District Attorneys in the Commonwealth and Chairman O'Flaherty – all of whom have experience with child abuse cases. We are confident that this proposal provides prosecutors with the tools they need to keep child predators off of our streets and away from our children.

This bill provides a sensible approach to dealing with an extremely difficult issue. As such, I urge you to support it. If I can be of assistance in answering any questions you might have about this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you to enact this legislation.

Cordially,

  
Martha Coakley  
Massachusetts Attorney General