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DALTON PROTECTS CHILDREN WITH NEW LAW

Predators Prohibited from Meeting Children Online, Increases Penalties

Raleigh - A new law authored by State Senator Walter Dalton, Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, will help protect North Carolina's children from sexual predators. The legislation, which was signed into law this weekend, outlaws the use of social networking sites, like MySpace and Facebook, by sexual predators, increases penalties for sexual exploitation of children and prohibits name changes that help predators hide from the law.

"This law is a powerful step in protecting our children from the dangers lurking online," Dalton said. "With this law, North Carolina has said clearly that those who want to harm our children can't hide behind the internet or a new name. Keeping our children safe is one of my top priorities.

The Protect Children from Sexual Predators Act, Senate Bill 132:

- Outlaws the use of social networking sites like Myspace and Facebook by sexual offenders, making it a felony and networking sites may face civil liability if reasonable precautions are not taken to exclude sexual offenders;
- Increases penalties for sexual exploitation of a minor;
- Prohibits sexual offenders from concealing their identity by seeking a legal name change.

Dalton has been a leader in strengthening North Carolina's laws protecting children and in empowering law enforcement with the necessary tools to pursue and catch child predators. Among his other efforts, he helped create a DNA database and a GPS tracker system to monitor sex offenders. Dalton has also successfully fought to keep meth out of North Carolina communities and out of the hands of children.

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