

# NEWS

From Supervisor Gary Ovitt  
Fourth District, San Bernardino County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## OVITT SELECTED AS STATEWIDE CO-CHAIR FOR JESSICA'S LAW

**Ontario** - Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt, Ontario Mayor Paul Leon, and President of the Ontario-Montclair School District Steve Garcia met for a joint press conference to confirm support for the California Initiative known as "Jessica's law." In November 2005, the Ontario-Montclair School District experienced approximately ten incidents of attempted abduction, exposure, or assault to district students. In two cases, mothers were also included in the assault and attempted to fight off the assailant. While a few arrests were made, new incidents continued to occur throughout the district and surrounding communities.

"In the past, such measures have been defeated in the legislature even though they are desperately needed and widely supported by California's families and law enforcement," said Supervisor Ovitt. "Our support of these measures is crucial to having them acted on quickly by the State Legislature."

In an effort to better protect children and citizens from sexual predators, the Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act ("Jessica's law") has been introduced as two bills in the California State Legislature. This legislation is co-sponsored by State Senator George Runner and Assemblywoman Sharon Runner. In the event that the bills fail in the legislature, a statewide ballot initiative is also proposed, which Fourth District Supervisor Gary Ovitt is co-sponsoring, along with Senator and Assemblywoman Runner and other statewide co-chairs.

"California needs to start protecting our children in the same fashion as San Bernardino County," stated Ovitt. "As a Statewide Co-Chair for this initiative I am committed to getting this on the ballot, and I will continue to fight for the safety of our children by supporting the implementation of GPS monitoring of sexual predators for life."

On Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Supervisor Gary Ovitt met with Senator George Runner and Assemblywoman Sharon Runner on a live broadcast of the John & Ken radio program to show his public support of the California Sexual Predator Punishment and Control Act, commonly referred to as "Jessica's Law." Supervisor Ovitt's selection as a Statewide Co-Chair was garnered by his past experience as a schoolteacher, and his recommendation for County implementation of Megan's Law to allow parents and concerned citizens to know the whereabouts of sex offenders in their neighborhoods.

California's Jessica's Law, as proposed, is the combination of SB 588 (G. Runner) and AB 231 (S. Runner). Both bills have been introduced in each house of the State Legislature concurrently. Jessica's Law would offer several new and strengthened provisions to state law including GPS tracking of paroled sex offenders for life, new predator-free zones for schools and parks, and stiffened "sexually violent predator" provision for violent first time offenders. Jessica's Law would also increase penalties for these offenses, increase parole terms, and add new punishable offenses for sex offenders.

For additional information regarding the Jessica's Law Initiative please contact the Supervisor's District Office at 909-465-1895.