



115TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATOR FRANK MRVAN, JR.

SENATE DISTRICT 1

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
November 30, 2007

Media Contact:
Peg McLeish, 317-232-9507
Jason Tomcsi, 317-232-9496

Mrvan attends national conference on sex offender management

INDIANAPOLIS – State Senator Frank Mrvan (D-Hammond) attended the *National Policy Forum: Sex Offender Management in the States* earlier this month in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The forum, made possible through funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, included sessions on understanding, managing and monitoring sex offenders.

“I think it is important that Indiana’s standards and practices reflect the best possible management of sex offenders in our communities,” Mrvan said. “Not only for those individuals directly affected, but for the public’s safety, we need to continually improve this system.”

There are approximately 603,000 registered sex offenders in the United States. The U.S. Department of Justice reports 60 percent of those have been released under supervision, either directly after sentencing or following incarceration. Of those released, reports the Justice Department, the whereabouts of 100,000 convicted sex offenders is unknown. This Forum was designed to help state officials learn ways to better deal with this problem and protect their communities.

A special keynote address featured Andrew Casanova, founder of the ALLY Foundation and mother of Alexandra Nicole Zapp, who in 2002 was murdered by a repeat sex offender. Other speakers included representatives from the Justice Department, state departments of corrections, state sex offender management officials, state legislators and police officers.

The event was hosted by The Council of State Governments, in partnership with the Association of Paroling Authorities International, the American Probation and Parole Association and The Center for Sex Offender Management.

The Indiana Sheriffs' Sex Offender Registry was established in 2003 after the passage of Indiana’s sex offender registry law, know as Zachary’s Law. The purpose of the registry is to inform the general public about the identity, location, and appearance of sex and violent offenders who live, work, or study in Indiana. In Indiana, sexual offenders must register within seven days of arrival in each county where the offender intends to live, work or study, either after being released from custody or moving to Indiana from another state. Any time an offender changes any of these locations, the offender must re-register with the local sheriff in the new location and notify the sheriff where he was previously registered.

For more information on Sen. Mrvan, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.IN.gov.

###