

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2008

The Honorable Robert Byrd
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Byrd and Ranking Member Cochran:

We write to you today regarding what will soon be an emergency situation that could have drastic negative effects on the United States Marshals Service's (USMS) ability to apprehend child predators and dangerous fugitive felons.

As you know, no funding was provided in FY08 for the USMS to implement aspects of the Adam Walsh Act, which was authorized at \$250 million over five years to strengthen federal laws to protect our children from sexual and other violent crimes, prevent child pornography, and make the Internet safer for our sons and daughters by hiring 250 new Deputy Marshals. Compounding the problem, the FY09 budget request did not include funding for the Adam Walsh Act.

As part of this program, the USMS Regional Fugitive Task Forces track down and apprehend the most dangerous fugitives on our streets. These fugitives are the "worst of the worst," as they prey on those who cannot protect themselves.

The Marshals Service may be the smallest federal law enforcement agency, but it has illustrated tremendous results and gives the federal government the biggest bang for the taxpayers buck by arresting more fugitives than all other federal agencies combined.

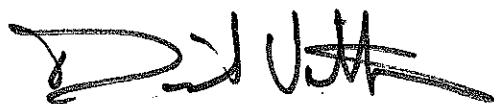
Even more frightening is that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) estimates that there are currently more than 100,000 sex offenders who have failed to register as required under the Adam Walsh Act. These predators are working, attending school, and living in proximity to our children, unbeknownst to parents and law enforcement officials.

Given these drastic shortfalls the USMS is currently contemplating layoffs that would result in a reduction in trained agents currently working to apprehend child predators and the complete shutdown of Operation Falcon, a successful national fugitive apprehension initiative, which has resulted in the collective capture of more than 36,500 dangerous fugitive felons.

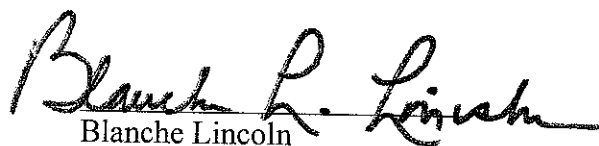
With that in mind, we are requesting the \$50 million be included in the upcoming Supplemental Appropriations bill to allow the USMS to continue these important programs. We know you will agree that protecting our children and our community should be a top priority.

We are willing to help in anyway possible and appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.


Sincerely,



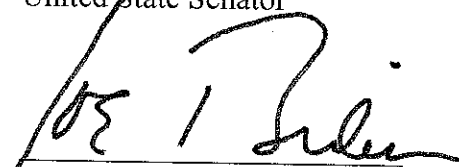
David Vitter
United States Senator



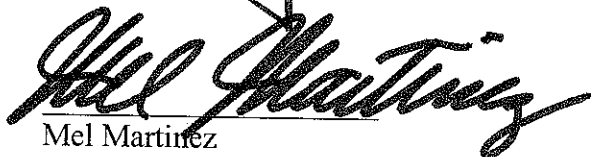
Blanche Lincoln
United State Senator



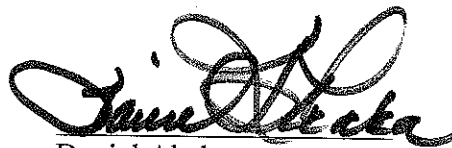
Daniel Inouye
United States Senator



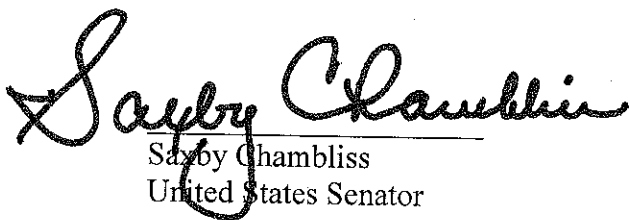
Joseph Biden
United States Senator



Mel Martinez
United States Senator



Daniel Akaka
United States Senator



Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator



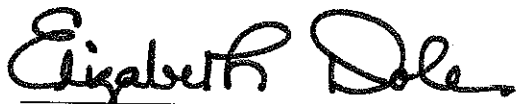
Gordon Smith
United States Senator



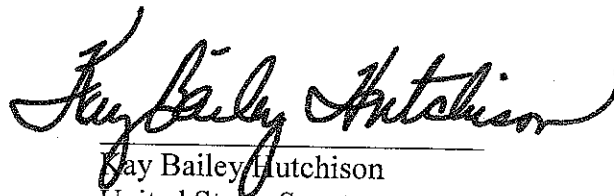
Sam Brownback
United States Senator



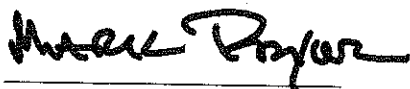
James Inhofe
United States Senator



Elizabeth Dole
United States Senator



Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator



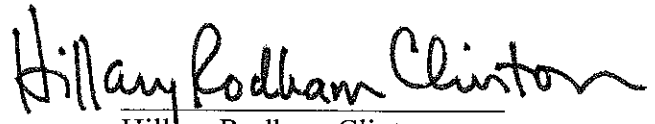
Mark Pryor
United States Senator



Robert Casey
United States Senator



Arlen Specter
United States Senator



Hillary Rodham Clinton
United States Senator