



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***FUND ADAM CALLS ON CONGRESS TO FULLY FUND
THE ADAM WALSH ACT OF 2006***

Washington, DC - FUND ADAM, a coalition of victims' parents and child protection advocates, has challenged the federal government to follow the lead of Sen. Barbara Mikulski and Sen. Richard Shelby in funding the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. Applauding the leadership and determination of Senators Mikulski and Shelby, FUND ADAM encouraged Congress to pass S.1745, the "Department of Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act, 2008," so that the Adam Walsh Act can be funded.

More than a year has passed since President Bush and the Congress worked together in bipartisan fashion to enact the Adam Walsh Act," said John Walsh, host of 'America's Most Wanted.' "But since then, there has been little follow through on funding the new law. Senators Mikulski and Shelby have stepped up with S.1745 to steer critical funding towards implementation of the Act. Absent passage of S.1745 and a vigorous effort to fund the Adam Walsh Act, FUND ADAM fears the promises made to our nation's parents and children will be left unfulfilled."

"The United States was promised a national sex offender registry and vigorous pursuit of unregistered sex offenders. Let's not fail to deliver on this commitment," said Manus Cooney of FUND ADAM. "Working together, Washington can surely find a way to do what's required here and fully fund the Adam Walsh Act."

President Bush signed the Adam Walsh Act into law on July 27, 2006. The Act is the most comprehensive child protection legislation in decades and creates stricter requirements for sex offender registration to prevent offenders from slipping through the cracks and hurting children. One of the most important features of the Act is the creation of a national sex offender registry that will be available on the Internet. The legislation also calls for stronger penalties for offenders who fail to register and keep their information current.

S.1745 appropriates \$313 million for Department of Justice efforts to prevent, investigate, and prosecute crimes against children, which includes funding for the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act. The legislation contains an additional \$5 million above the budget request for the U.S. Marshals Service to establish new or expand existing regional fugitive

task forces, giving emphasis to the workload created by the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act.

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FUND ADAM (www.fundadam.org) was formed in 2007 with the goal of bringing together victims' parents and child protection advocates to work with policymakers to insure full funding of the Adam Walsh Child Protection Act. Members of FUND ADAM include: The ALLY Foundation; The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation; The Dru Sjodin Foundation; Ed and Elizabeth Smart; The Fraternal Order of Police; John and Revé Walsh; and The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.