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Governor Christie Signs Jessica Lunsford Act Into Law To Strengthen Penalties For Sexual Assault Against Children

Monday, June 02, 2014

Tags: [Bill Action](#)

Governor Christie: It's About Valuing Human Life


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVNY7xoLfOM>

Transcript

Governor Christie: Nine year old Jessica was abducted by a registered sex offender from her grandparents' home in the middle of the night in February of 2005. Her body was found in a shallow grave less than 150 yards from her home. The loss of a child is an unthinkable tragedy and something that no parent can ever imagine until they actually have to go through it. To lose a child at the hands of a sexual predator is an even more horrific, horrific thought. We never can undo an evil act like that. All we can do is to try to serve justice and try to prevent it from happening again. So with our enactment of the Jessica Lunsford Act into law we're trying to do that. This legislation will protect our children, strengthen the penalties for those who commit sexual assault against them. The law will ensure that those individuals who commit unthinkable crimes and prey on the innocence and vulnerability of our children are given the punishment that they have so richly earned. Today we're ensuring justice is served and it will hopefully be a deterrent to prevent these heinous acts and the life-changing trauma they bring from being committed at all, but when they are committed to make sure that justice is done swiftly and surely and significantly. I want to thank all of the folks up here again for the role that they played and the other members of the Legislature who also played a significant role in getting this legislation to my desk. And I want to thank Mark for taking the time to be here, you're going to hear from him in a moment, for committing himself to this cause, ensuring that the tragedy that his family sustained and his daughter's memory will live on in this law and in the law being passed in other states as well.

Mark Lunsford: Today marks the day that New Jersey begins changing the landscape on how we deal with crimes against children. Today is the day that New Jersey says that we're turning the tables and instead of you stalking our

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May 30, 2014 Act

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children we're stalking you. I never forget about my daughter Jessica. But the other pains that I have is that she's not the only child that I think of on days like this, the parents that I've had to meet, and I didn't even know what to say to them, and I had already been through what they're going through. It's horrible and it's sad, and the only way that we can make things different is by joining together and every state passing something that is so tough that it makes other people so angry because it's so hard for them to do their job to protect a guilty man.

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