

John E. Walsh

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts,

I am writing to inform you of my support of the Kelsey Smith Act, which, if enacted, will improve the ability of law enforcement officials to locate missing children and bring them home to their families.

As the father of an abducted child, I know how critical every minute is once a child goes missing. Losing my son Adam, who was abducted and subsequently murdered, is what drove me to fight for passage of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (P.L. 98-473) and subsequently co-found NCMEC and host the television show, *America's Most Wanted*. I have also testified before Congress and state legislatures more than 55 times on crime, missing children and victims' issues and am confident that passage of the Kelsey Smith Act at the federal level will help locating missing individuals sooner and improve the chances of finding them alive.

In June 2007, 18 year old Kelsey Smith was abducted in broad daylight from an Overland Park, Kansas, parking lot. In an effort to locate her, her wireless carrier was contacted multiple times by family, law enforcement and was even issued a subpoena by the district attorney's office asking for the location of Kelsey's phone. Unfortunately, the Smith family's wireless carrier was hesitant to hand over the location of her device in the absence of a warrant. Tragically, four days after Kelsey disappeared; authorities were able to locate her body within 45 minutes after her wireless provider finally released the location of her cell phone.

The importance of gaining quick access to location information, available through telecommunications devices, cannot be stressed enough, as it is necessary to give law enforcement officials the ability to locate and rescue victims in very specific emergency situations – namely when there is risk of death or serious bodily injury when time is of the essence.

The Smith family has fought to successfully pass Kelsey's Law in 23 states, and now it is time the Congress afford the same level of protection to the citizens of all 50 states. This legislation that has and will continue to save lives.

I want to thank you for introducing the Kelsey Smith Act and for your leadership on this important piece of legislation and I hope that you will let me know if I can be of further assistance in getting it passed.

Sincerely,

John Walsh

Co-founder, The National center for Missing & Exploited Children