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WANGGAARD-AUTHORED LAW HELPS ARREST 16 CHILD SEX PREDATORS Operation "New Hope" Targeted Sex Offenders and Traffickers

Sixteen child sex predators and sex traffickers were arrested last week by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) aided in large part by a bill authored by Senator Van Wanggaard (R-Racine) and signed into law last year. The DOJ Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force used provisions in Alicia's Law (2015 Wisconsin Act 369) to quickly locate the online child sex predators and arrest them.

"I'm ecstatic! Alicia's Law was one of the most difficult and most important bills I have passed in my career," said Wanggaard. "This makes it all worth it. I look forward to Alicia's Law helping to end the plague of sex trafficking and sex predators in Wisconsin."

The arrests were part of a week-long campaign by the DOJ ICAC dubbed "Operation New Hope." More than 30 law enforcement agencies and advocacy groups assisted in the effort. The 16 child sex predators have been charged with a variety of charges including child pornography, child enticement, attempted sexual assault of a child, and trafficking a child. Alicia's Law was co-authored by Representative Joel Kleefisch (R-Oconomowoc).

"These crimes are so sick, so evil, I'm glad that we have dedicated individuals led by Attorney General Brad Schimel leading the fight to protect children and arrest these criminals," Wanggaard added. "I'm so excited that this bill has led to a positive outcome and will lead to future arrests. If you are exploiting children in Wisconsin, you're going to get caught."

Alicia's Law added to \$1 million in funding to ICAC. Just as importantly, the law streamlines the administrative subpoena process allowing ICAC investigators to arrest predators and rescue children. For more information about ICAC and protecting children online, you can visit www.ProtectKidsOnlineWI.gov. To learn more information about the arrests, you can read the [Attorney General's press release](#) and [review booking photos](#).

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