



Fact Sheet

U.S. Rep. Adam Putnam (Fla.-12)

Central Florida: Hillsborough, Osceola and Polk counties

Student Protection Act HR 1829

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Keith Rupp
Communications Director
(863) 534-3530

The Problem:

Nationwide, a disturbingly large number of people employed by school systems have abused their positions of trust to **engage in sexual misconduct with under-age students**.

A 2004 report (www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/misconductreview/report.pdf) by the U.S. Department of Education concluded that “**nearly 9.6 percent of students are targets** of educator sexual misconduct sometime during their school career.”

Currently, there is **no uniform system** requiring the reporting of acts of sexual misconduct by educators.

Even when educators have been found guilty of sexual misconduct, they **often retain their teaching certificates** and are able to relocate to other school districts.

In October 2007, the Associated Press reported the results of a **nationwide investigation** it had conducted. It found a total of **2,570 educators** across the nation who had been **punished for sexual misconduct** from 2001-2005, representing about a quarter of all educator misconduct cases in that time period.

The Solution:

The Student Protection Act (HR 1829) would mandate that the Secretary of Education develop policies to be put into place by the states by fiscal year 2010

for reporting, investigating and communicating occurrences of sexual misconduct by educators.

Important elements of this legislation include:

- A **uniform reporting requirement** for educators accused of sexual misconduct;
- The creation of a body within each state to be **responsible for receiving and investigating allegations** of sexual misconduct by educators;
- **Policies for reporting and investigating** allegations of sexual misconduct, as well as training for investigators performing investigations;
- Establishment of a **toll-free number** for reporting allegations of sexual misconduct; and
- A **nationwide database** of educators who have committed acts of sexual misconduct that will be made available to the public.

Bill Status:

Congressman Putnam introduced HR 1829 March 29, 2007

It was referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

The measure has 17 cosponsors as of May 1, 2008

For the most current status on HR 1829, click here: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.01829>:

A companion bill was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) [S.2360](#)

Congressman Putnam:

Since 2001, Putnam has represented Florida's 12th Congressional District, which includes most of Polk County and portions of Hillsborough and Osceola counties. He is chairman of the Republican Conference, his party's third highest leadership position.

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