

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Radio Address – Protect legislation

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Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This past week, while parents across Michigan focused on getting their kids ready for school, talk in the Capitol focused on making sure that state government is doing everything it can to protect our children, no matter where they are.

Whether it's a big goal, like giving every child the opportunity to go to college, or something more basic, like keeping them safe, children are the focus of state government every single day.

That's why I asked the Legislature in May to pass a series of bills to keep our children safe from sexual predators. This past week, the State House held hearings on some of the legislation I called for – and I applaud them for it, because this is such an important issue to all of us.

Now...we don't always agree in Lansing, but we can agree on common sense ideas to protect our kids – like making sure that sex offenders can't be within a certain distance of a school, or requiring daycare centers to run criminal background checks on their staff.

The legislation I called for closes critical safety loopholes. First, it makes it illegal for sex offenders to be within 1,000 feet of a school.

Second, it bars a convicted sex offender from working in a youth sports league, a day care center, a school, or from volunteering at an after school program.

My hat is off to the incredible men and women in Michigan who've dedicated their lives to teaching and caring for our children. They do a remarkable job. At the state level, we have to mirror their dedication to keeping our children safe.

This summer, we were one of the first states in the country to join a nationwide effort to track felons who've been convicted of sex crimes. And this year, we became one of the first states to create a sort of Internet "do-not-call" list for parents who want to keep inappropriate material away from their kids' email inboxes.

These are important measures to protect children, but we have to do more. So as kids go back to school this fall, I hope to sign legislation that makes Michigan, more than ever before, a safe place – in fact, the safest place in the nation – for families to live and for children to learn.

Thank you for listening.