



# NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

May 20, 2011

The Honorable Pete Stark  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Erik Paulsen  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stark and Congressman Paulsen:

On behalf of the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and the over 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, I am writing to express our strong support for the Recovering Missing Children Act. This legislation will provide a vital investigative tool to help law enforcement locate missing children and reunite them with their families.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), in a given year, over 800,000 children are reported missing throughout the United States. Of those, 200,000 missing children are victims of parental abductions. In 2007, the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGIA) conducted an examination of social security numbers for 1700 missing children and the relatives alleged to have abducted them. The study found that in one-third of the cases, the social security numbers were used on tax returns filed after the abductions with new addresses on file. This is significant information that could be the key in solving a missing child case.

However, state and local law enforcement are currently prohibited by law from accessing this information from the IRS. The Recovering Missing Children Act seeks to correct this problem. Under the legislation, the IRS will now be permitted to disclose the tax returns and return information to state and local law enforcement officers who are directly partnering with federal agencies in the investigation of a missing or exploited child.

Missing children cases are incredibly complex to solve. As such, it is imperative that federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have every resource necessary to aid in their investigations and bring home missing children. Congressman Stark and Congressman Paulsen, I commend you for your leadership on this issue and the National Sheriffs' Association stands ready to assist you in the passage of the Recovering Missing Children Act during the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B.J. Roberts".

Sheriff B.J. Roberts  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aaron D. Kennard".

Aaron D. Kennard, Sheriff (Ret.)  
Executive Director