



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Martin J. Golden

# State Legislators Propose Tougher Penalties Against Child Predators

Martin J. Golden

October 7, 2011

ISSUE:

- [Crime](#)



Brooklyn- State Senator Martin J. Golden (R-C-I, Brooklyn) and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-C, Brooklyn/Staten Island) today announced they are sponsoring legislation that will increase the penalties for predators who attempt to lure or entice a child by various means. The bill would enhance penalties for those who solicit youths for criminal activity or sexual encounters by using a vehicle, meeting in a secluded area, or through social media. The lawmakers made the announcement at a press conference held outside the Bay Ridge Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library.

The legislation would increase the penalty to a class D felony when a person over the age of 18 is found guilty of attempting to lure or entice a child under the age of 17 into a vehicle, building or other isolated area for the purposes of committing a criminal offense. Current law charges those who endanger the welfare of a child in such instances with a class A misdemeanor.

Additionally, the increased penalty would also apply to those who lure or harass knowingly, someone under the age of 17, by means of computer communication in order to solicit a sexual encounter or to commit a criminal offense with or against. Current law does not specifically address the harassment of a child via computer.

Senator Marty Golden, a former New York City Police Officer stated, "We have heard enough horror stories of predators that have used the computer to chat and e-mail with the youth of our community for all the wrong reasons. I join with my colleague, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, in standing up for all children and families here in New York State, so that we can increase penalties for such crimes and better protect our children."

Golden continued, "In this day in age, we must do all we can to protect our children at all times. Whether they are walking home from school, or playing in the park, or surfing the web, there needs to be laws on the book to safeguard our children."

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis "In our evolving world of technology, children are increasingly susceptible to sexual predators. It

is crucial for state government to modify laws to keep pace with our ever-changing landscape and close loopholes that allow criminals to prey on vulnerable children. This legislation will help law enforcement lock up sexual predators before they have the chance to execute a despicable act, and I am proud to stand with Senator Golden today to combat the threat of sexual abuse against children.”