



## **Under Pressure, MySpace Agrees to Block Sexual Predators**

### **Dalton, Champion of NC Legislation, Hails Decision**

Raleigh — Senator Walter Dalton, candidate for Lt. Governor, praised today’s report that MySpace.com has agreed to add extensive measures to combat sexual predators. This decision comes after pressure from states such as North Carolina for better online protections for children.

“For the past year, I’ve pushed these social networking sites to better protect our children from sexual predators who lurk anonymously online. They brought out the special interests to try to fight us, but we weren’t deterred. I’m glad MySpace has finally seen the light,” Dalton said.

#### **Dalton Began the Push in North Carolina**

This year, Dalton introduced legislation with the strong support of Attorney General Roy Cooper to require parental consent for minors under 18 to use social networking websites like MySpace or Facebook. The legislation, which passed in the Senate, would also require these sites to allow parents access to their children’s profile and would make it a felony for registered sexual offenders to use these sites.

#### **Dalton Stood Up to Special Interests Lobbying Against Protections**

When the bill was being considered in the Senate, “[a]dvocates for **Internet-based industries** and privacy issues **testified against those restrictions**, saying they would establish broad parental verification standards that would be found unconstitutional in court.” [Associated Press, 7/24/2007]

“**Sen. Walter Dalton, a primary sponsor of the bill, scoffed at the testimony.** ‘I don’t buy any of those arguments I just heard,’ said Dalton, D-Rutherford, adding that he and Cooper’s office believed the age verification requirements could withstand judicial scrutiny.” [Associated Press, 7/24/2007]

In 2006, Dalton helped pass tough new penalties against sex offenders and required electronic monitoring of sex offenders.

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