



Bedford County Sheriff's Office

1345 Falling Creek Road
Bedford, Virginia 24523-2230
540-586-4800
FAX 540-586-9100

Michael J. Brown
Sheriff

Committed to Excellence

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

July 12, 2011

Sheriff Mike Brown To Testify Before Congress

Washington, DC - Sheriff Michael Brown of Bedford County, VA, member of the National Sheriffs' Association, (NSA), serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the NSA, will deliver testimony before the United States House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Sheriff Brown who is known throughout the nation for being one of the first in the country to establish an Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, (ICAC), in 1998, has been asked to represent the National Sheriffs' Association in support of **H.R. 1981 – Protecting Children From Internet Pornographers Act of 2011**.

To help law enforcement combat Internet child pornography, Congressman Lamar Smith (R-TX) and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), introduced H.R. 1981 to require Internet Service Providers, (ISPs) to retain the IP addresses and all associated customer information for at least 18 months. This 18 month provision is critical as it will ensure that when law enforcement contacts an ISP looking for a child predator, the identifying information will still exist. Many ISPs retain this information for only seven to thirty days, making many investigations nearly impossible to pursue.

Additionally, H.R. 1981 provides legal protections for ISPs to further facilitate cooperation with law enforcement and help ease concerns that the ISPs could be held civilly liable for sharing customer information with law enforcement during valid investigations.

H.R. 1981 also creates a new federal offense for individuals who profit from child pornography; significantly enhances penalties for possession of child pornography; provides administrative subpoena authority to the U.S. Marshals to access critical travel information and records on fugitive sex offenders; and strengthens the protections for child witnesses and victims.

Sheriff Brown will site some actual cases pursued by his own investigators of the Southern Virginia ICAC Task Force, (SOVA ICAC), cases they were forced to close due to necessary ISP information being unavailable for analysis.

Brown is a retired federal agent and has served as the Sheriff of Bedford County, VA, for the past 16 years. He describes child pornography as a worldwide epidemic.