

## *2006 Press Releases*

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# March 2006

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 31, 2006, 1:00 p.m. CST

CONTACT:  
Mary Nelson, 402-471-2067

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL BRUNING** **ANNOUNCES INTERNET SAFETY MONTH**

(Lincoln, NE) Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced April as 'Internet Safety Month' in Nebraska.

"The Internet can be a great resource, but it can also be dangerous. Sexual predators often use the Internet to find their next victim. We have been working hard to prosecute Internet predators, but the only way to keep kids safe is to make sure they understand the risks," Bruning said.

Statistics from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children are alarming:

- 1 in 5 children who regularly use the Internet are sexually solicited;
- 1 in 17 are harassed or threatened;
- 1 in 33 receive an aggressive sexual solicitation or are asked to meet;
- 70 percent of aggressive online solicitations occur in the child's home;
- Less than 10 percent of those children who are sexually solicited report it to authorities.

Bruning will kick off 'Internet Safety Month' by talking to a group of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders at Irving Middle School in Lincoln on April 6. Throughout April, Bruning will take his message of how to stay safe online across the state, including schools in Doniphan and Columbus.

"I encourage parents, teachers and kids to visit our Web site, [www.safekids.ne.gov](http://www.safekids.ne.gov), which has information on how to use the Internet safely," Bruning said.

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## **ATTORNEY GENERAL BRUNING ANNOUNCES CONTEST WINNERS**

(Lincoln, NE) Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced the winners of his Internet safety poster and public service announcement contest. The Department of Justice and a network of Nebraska's Educational Service Units organized the contest to promote Internet safety and 'Internet Safety Month.'

Elementary, middle and high school students from across the state were invited to enter the contest. Winners were chosen by a committee of educators, based on how well the student's design promotes Internet safety.

One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by the **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class at McDaid Elementary.**

The class entered a public service announcement in the contest.

"I am very impressed with their public service announcement, and grateful the class is using their talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

April is 'Internet Safety Month' in Nebraska. In addition to the contest, Attorney General Bruning will visit schools across the state to talk to students about how to stay safe online.

Bruning's first visit will be to Irving Middle School in Lincoln on April 6.

The Nebraska Attorney General's Office has also created this site, [www.safekids.ne.gov](http://www.safekids.ne.gov), which has information for parents, teachers and kids on how to use the Internet safely.

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One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by **Erika Baltzell and Abby Royle**.

Erika and Abby attend Pleasanton High School. The pair entered a public service announcement in the contest.

"I am very impressed with their public service announcement, and grateful Erika and Abby are using their talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

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One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by **A.J. Bose**.

A.J. attends Scotus Central Catholic School, and entered a computer-generated poster in the contest.

"I am very impressed with A.J.'s poster, and grateful he is using his talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

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One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by the **Chris Eveland, Meghan McAuliffe, Sidney Mell, Landon Trumbull, Joel Wach and Jacob Redinger.**

The students attend Prairie View Elementary. They entered a public service announcement in the contest.

"I am very impressed with their public service announcement, and grateful they are using their talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

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One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by the **Evelyn Gascon**.

Evelyn attends St. Joseph School. She entered a hand-drawn poster in the contest.

"I am very impressed with Evelyn's poster, and grateful she is using her talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

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One of the 10 winners is **Audra Hollertz**.

Audra attends Holdrege High School. She entered a computer-generated poster in the contest.

"I am very impressed with Audra's poster, and grateful she is using her talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

Also part of 'Internet Safety Month' in Nebraska, Attorney General Bruning will visit schools across the state to talk to students about how to stay safe online.

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One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by **Jamie Jones and Sam Mentzer**.

Jamie and Sam attend Schuyler Grade School. They entered a public service announcement in the contest.

"I am very impressed with Jamie and Sam's public service announcement, and grateful they are using their talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

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One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by **Eleanor Rose Karchor**.

Eleanor attends Kearney High School. She entered a hand-drawn poster in the contest.

"I am very impressed with Eleanor's poster, and grateful she is using her talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

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One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by **Javier Moreno**.

Javier attends Knickrehm Elementary School, and entered a hand-drawn poster in the contest.

"I am very impressed with Javier's poster, and grateful he is using his talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

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One of the 10 winning entries was submitted by the **Nicole Runyan**.

Nicole is a Sargent Public Schools student. She entered a computer-generated poster in the contest.

"I am very impressed with Nicole's poster, and grateful she is using her talent to help us spread the word about the importance of Internet safety," Bruning said.

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###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 29, 2006, 3:00 p.m. CST

CONTACT:  
Mary Nelson, 402-471-2067

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL BRUNING TO** **'RUN FOR HIS LIFE'**

(Lincoln, NE) Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning is accustomed to running races; however, they're usually political.

Saturday, April 1, Bruning will run in the 8<sup>th</sup> annual State Farm *Run for Your Life*. The event is coordinated by the Lincoln Track Club.

Bruning will run the 10-mile, which starts at 9:00 a.m. The starting line is at 222 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street in Lincoln. This will be Bruning's third *Run for Your Life* race.

"I am running this race for my kids. I want to teach them to take good care of their health, and I think it's important to lead by example," Bruning said.

April is Public Health Month in Nebraska. The United Health Foundation ranks the state as the 11<sup>th</sup> healthiest in the country.

The attorney general hopes families across Nebraska will use Public Health Month to get active together. Bruning's 64-year old father, Roger, will run the 10-mile, as well.

*Run for Your Life* will help Bruning prepare for a half-marathon in May.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 29, 2006, 2:45 p.m. CST

CONTACT:  
Mary Nelson, 402-471-2067

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL BRUNING REACTS** **AS DRUNK DRIVING BILL ADVANCES**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today hailed the advancement of LB 925, a plan to increase penalties for repeat drunk drivers.

“This is important legislation. We’ve had too many people die on Nebraska’s roads. Repeat drunk drivers are a serious problem in our state, and it’s time they face serious punishment. I am proud this bill is moving forward,” Bruning said.

The sponsor of the bill is Omaha Senator Mike Friend, who made this his personal priority bill for 2006.

“I’m grateful for Senator Friend’s commitment to making our state safer,” Bruning said.

LB 925 is part of the attorney general’s 2006 crime package.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 28, 2006, 10:00 a.m. CST

CONTACT:  
Mary Nelson, 402-471-2067

## **ATTORNEY GENERAL REACTS AS SEX OFFENDER BILL ADVANCES**

(Lincoln, NE) Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning hails the advancement of LB 1199. Bruning helped construct the proposal, which addresses many issues including tougher penalties for sex offenders.

“Criminals who hurt children deserve to be locked up for a long time. Families statewide can rest assured; we are doing everything in our power to keep Nebraska’s children safe.”

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 13, 2006, 3:45 p.m. CT

**CONTACT**

Aaron Sanderford, Gov's Office, 402-471-1967  
Ashley Craddock, Gov's Office, 402-471-1970  
Mary Nelson, AG's Office, 402-471-2067  
Sen. Don Pederson, 402-471-2729

**Governor, Attorney General, Sen. Pederson Support  
Short-Term Replacement of Byrne Funding**

**(Lincoln, Neb.)** Gov. Dave Heineman and Attorney General Jon Bruning expressed support for temporarily replace federal funding for Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants with state funds. Sen. Don Pederson of North Platte introduced a budget amendment today developed in conjunction with the Governor.

"Byrne grants provide important support for Nebraska's anti-drug task forces and help partnering law enforcement agencies to combat violent crime," Gov. Heineman said. "I'm pleased that Senator Pederson is willing to consider this emergency request, and I appreciate his efforts."

The amendment would replace Byrne funding for FY 2006-07, making \$426,046 in state funds available to the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. The Crime Commission would award the funds as grants to local law enforcement agencies to replace one year of federal funding. These grants will still require the same 25 percent match used by the federal Byrne program.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Anti-drug task forces are an important tool in the fight to protect our communities. It is critical we give law enforcement the help they need."

In addition to their support for the supplemental state funding, the Governor and Attorney General will continue working with Nebraska's Congressional delegation to encourage Congress to restore federal Byrne funding.

"The elimination of funding for this program occurred after our budget had been submitted, but these are important programs," Gov. Heineman said. "We understand the need for the federal government to balance its budget, but Congress cannot expect states to pick up the tab each time they cut programs."

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