



Bob Hackett

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Senate Bill 86
House State and Local Government Committee
Chair Anielski
Sponsor Testimony – Senator Bob Hackett
Wednesday September 20, 2017

Thank you Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the House State and Local Government Committee for the opportunity to bring before you Senate Bill 86.

Thirty-two years ago, law enforcement were able to enter information about stolen cars, guns and even horses into the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) crime database – but not missing children. Several tragic cases began to awaken the nation to the fact that there was no coordinated national system to assist and search for missing children.

For this reason, in 1984, John and Revé Walsh and other child advocates founded the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) as a private, non-profit organization to serve as the national clearinghouse and resource center for information about missing and exploited children. When a child is reported missing to law enforcement, federal law requires that the child be entered into the FBI's National Crime Information Center, also known as NCIC. According to the FBI, in 2016 there were 465,676 NCIC entries for missing children. Similarly, in 2015, the total number of missing children entries into NCIC was 460,699.

Every May 25, which is the anniversary of Etan Patz's disappearance, the nation observes Missing Children's Day. For over three decades, NCMEC has continued to help search for children like Etan. NCMEC never forgets a child and never gives up hope no matter how long a child has been missing. S.B. 86 honors this commitment to help locate and recover missing children like Etan by reminding parents, guardians, families and communities that every child deserves a safe childhood.

Once again, Chair Anielski, Vice Chair Hambley, Ranking Member Holmes and members of the House State and Local Government Committee thank you for the opportunity to bring S.B. 86 before you. I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions the committee may have at this time.