



NEWS RELEASE

SEN. VICKI L. WALKER

STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 7:

EUGENE, SANTA CLARA, AND JUNCTION CITY

For Immediate Release
October 19, 2006

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Statement from Sen. Walker Regarding Janyce Iturra Matter

EUGENE — Once again, I'd like to express my deepest sympathies to Janyce Iturra for the loss of her son. As a mother, I can only imagine the pain she must live with every day.

When I first listened to Ms. Iturra's testimony in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee, my heart went out to her.

In my four years in the Senate, I have steadfastly stood up for the victims of crime, especially children who are victims. That's why I fought so hard to pass Jessica's Law to crack down on child predators, and to institute a statewide Amber Alert bill to help track children who are abducted.

If the bill Ms. Iturra was supporting was simply a matter of closing a loophole that would have protected our children, there is no one in the Senate who would have supported it as strongly as me.

Unfortunately, the bill in question was far more reaching in scope (which is why it was opposed by groups across the political spectrum) and went against one of my core convictions.

I recall my own difficulty resolving this conflict as I shared Ms. Iturra's story with my colleagues in my floor speech on August 1st, 2005. However, in the end, I voted my conscience on the bill, which was opposed to the position Ms. Iturra supported.

Should I be granted the honor of another four years representing this district, I will look forward to working with Ms. Iturra and any other member of our community who cares about protecting our children's safety.