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LARSON STATEMENT REGARDING HOUSE PASSAGE OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON AMBER ALERT LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) issued the following statement today following House passage of the conference report on the Child Abduction Prevention Act of 2003. The bill, which passed the House by a vote of 400-25, will implement the America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER alert) system nationwide. The bill also expands criminal penalties for sex crimes against children and outlaws computer generated "virtual" images of child pornography.

"This legislation will improve the ability of law enforcement to locate missing children and I am very pleased that the House and Senate conferees were able to work so quickly in moving it forward. I believe that this bill will go a long way toward protecting children. It is critical that the bill reach the President's desk as soon as possible to ensure that this system can be implemented nationwide without delay in the interest of missing and exploited children everywhere," said Larson.

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Congressman Larson is a Member of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus