



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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WOMEN'S CAUCUS PUTS FEMALES ON ALERT

The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus today announced a statewide initiative to empower women and target the growing problem of violence against females. The initiative includes a reward for the South Louisiana serial killer.

State Rep. Diane Winston, caucus chair, and state Rep. Yvonne Dorsey-Welch, chair of the Committee on Combating Violence Against Females, said the 23-members of the caucus unanimously agreed to establish SAVE (Stay Alert and Vigilant...Everywhere!), a fund offering a monetary reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the South Louisiana serial killer.

The announcement was made at a press conference at the state capitol attended by members of the caucus.

All 23 members of the caucus have personally donated \$200 each to the fund. The caucus has pledged totaling an additional \$10,000 from members of the community. They appealed to their male colleagues, state government staffers, lobbyists, and the general public to join them in financially supporting the fund. Governor Foster has pledged his financial support, although an exact amount was unknown.

Welch said she and members of the caucus are "launching a full-scale initiative to put every woman in Louisiana on alert. A predatory killer is roaming around south

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add one - Women's Caucus

Louisiana looking for women targets. He relies on his female victims being unaware, overly trusting, and careless of their safety. It is SAVE's purpose to remind women --as many times as it takes--to Stay Alert and Vigilant...Everywhere!"

She also stressed that even though the serial killer is linked by DNA to four crimes in Baton Rouge and Lafayette, this is a statewide problem. "No woman is safe. There is an obvious accelerating pattern," she said.

Lamar Advertising is donating billboards which will be used to spread the message. At this time billboards are planned for the Baton Rouge and Lafayette areas where the serial killer has struck. Welch said she is hopeful that more billboards will be forthcoming.

Members of the caucus will prepare public service announcements which will be made available to all media. Brochures will be distributed free of charge, listing the most useful things a woman can do to preserve her safety. In conjunction with the Baton Rouge City Police safety classes are being organized, and person-to-person campaigns in malls and other public places to ensure that women are alert and aware will be conducted.

Donations to the SAVE Fund may be made at any Hibernia National Bank, Account #8070359090 or by mailing a check or money order made payable to SAVE, in care of the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus, P. O. Box 44188, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

SAVE t-shirts, with proceeds going to the fund, may be purchased at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Office (225-342-0334) in the State Capitol beginning next week.

The cost is \$10 per shirt.

For information concerning this initiative or to purchase a t-shirt you may also call (225) 346-8852.

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