

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL) today helped introduce bipartisan legislation that will provide \$25 million in grants to help states set up "AMBER Alert" programs to locate abducted children.

"Every parent's worst nightmare is a stranger taking their child. The AMBER Alert is a common-sense program with a proven record of saving children's lives. Our goal should be to have it implemented in every state," said Bachus.

Under the proposed National AMBER Alert Network Act, states would receive federal grants to update technology, such as electronic road signs, to help spread alerts when a child in the area has been abducted. In addition, the bill would establish a national coordinator at the Department of Justice to help states implement AMBER plans and direct regional coordination of AMBER alerts.

AMBER, which stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response, is an immediate notification system for informing the general public about child abductions. The notifications provide law enforcement and the public with important descriptive details about the abduction, such as physical descriptions of the abductor, the victim and any vehicles involved, as well as information about how the public can help law enforcement save the child and capture the abductor.

"In the most serious child kidnaping cases, more than 70 percent of children murdered by non-family members are killed within the first three hours of their abduction. Instantly mobilizing local police and communities in those critical moments immediately after an abduction is key to locating the child before it is too late," Bachus said.