



NEWS RELEASE

JERRY J. OUELLETTE
Member of Provincial Parliament
OSHAWA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 31, 2011

OUELLETTE'S BILL TO PROTECT CHILDREN IN AMATEUR SPORTS PASSES SECOND READING FOR THIRD TIME

QUEEN'S PARK – Bill 86, the *Protection of Minors in Amateur Sports Act, 2010* introduced by Oshawa MPP Jerry Ouellette passed Second Reading this afternoon in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. The bill will now move forward and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy.

The bill would establish mandatory criminal background checks for all those who volunteer with sports organizations involving youth under 18 years of age.

"I am pleased the bill has passed Second Reading for the third time," declares Mr. Ouellette. "It clearly shows the support of all parties for such an important bill. I urge the McGuinty government to immediately call the bill before committee to fine tune the legislation and get it passed before the legislative session adjourns."

Once again, there was overwhelming support for Mr. Ouellette's bill, which was previously introduced on two separate occasions, but died on order paper each time the McGuinty government prorogued the legislature.

Bob Delaney, Liberal MPP from Mississauga-Streetsville congratulated Mr. Ouellette for his determination with this legislation. "Let's stay on the cases of our respective House leaders and let's get this one done. I would be pleased to stand up and applaud the member for having a private member's bill passed."

Michael Prue, the NDP Member from Beaches-East York was equally appreciative in his analysis. "Certainly, the people of Ontario, the mothers and fathers, would welcome it, and the children who will be protected would owe this Legislature a lifetime of gratitude for not having to have a sexual predator or other in a position close to them that might cause them harm. People of Ontario expect a bill like this to pass."

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“I believe wholeheartedly that it’s in the best interest of every family and child to make sure that we pass this bill today”, asserts Elizabeth Witmer MPP Kitchener-Waterloo.

Mr. Ouellette has received positive endorsements from provincial sporting associations, many of which are in the process of developing similar policies. While many organized sports in Ontario have already developed strategies dealing with protecting children, there are no provincial standards or guidelines that require mandatory criminal background checks.

"The protection of our children from convicted offenders is a serious matter and I will continue to work together with all organizations in Oshawa and across the province to make organized sports safer for our children," added Mr. Ouellette.

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