



Keep Georgia Safe and Rep. Rob Teilhet to Introduce DNA Arrestee Law in GA

ATLANTA -- Keep Georgia Safe and State Representative Rob Teilhet (D - Smyrna) are working to enact a DNA Arrestee Law in Georgia and plan to introduce a bill at the upcoming Legislative Session.

DNA evidence has been the most effective and valuable weapon used to identify perpetrators in unsolved rape or murder cases, while helping to exonerate those under suspicion, or those falsely accused. A law would require all felony arrests to provide a DNA sample at booking, when fingerprints and mug shots are collected.

“A simple cotton swab can be a major crime-fighting tool,” says Gary Martin Hays, founder and chairman of Keep Georgia Safe. “Not only could this law bring repeat violent criminals to justice much quicker, but it works to exonerate the innocent and protect the citizens of Georgia while helping reduce costs in the criminal justice system.”

“Twenty-one states have passed DNA Arrestee Laws, including Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and South Carolina,” says Rep. Rob Teilhet. “It’s time for Georgia to have all the means available to catch and convict violent criminals.”

Keep Georgia Safe, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, has a two-pronged approach to crime prevention: 1) Proactive: Safety education and personal empowerment training 2) Reactive: Alert System Network. As the only organization that sends out all three of Georgia's emergency alerts, the Keep Georgia Safe Wireless Network uses a text platform to notify opt-in wireless subscribers when the GBI issues any of its three emergency alerts:

- Levi’s Call: Georgia’s AMBER Alert for an abducted or missing child
- Mattie’s Call: elderly or disabled missing person alert
- Kimberly’s Call: dangerous fugitive alert

Keep Georgia Safe provides the alert service free of charge. To join the network, visit www.keepgeorgiasafe.org and enter your cell phone number. Subscribers will not receive any calls or alerts other than GBI-issued alerts. For more information on Keep Georgia Safe, its alert network or education programs, visit www.keepgeorgiasafe.org or call 770.934.8000.

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