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## **Vellacott commends House of Commons passage of Bill C-22 to raise the Age of Protection**

**For Immediate Release**

**May 7, 2007**

**OTTAWA** – Today, Saskatoon-Wanuskewin Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott made the following statement in the House of Commons:

Mr. Speaker, Friday, May 4 was a great day for Canada. The House of Commons passed important legislation that will protect potential victims of sexual assault by increasing the age at which youth can consent to sexual activity. This will better protect them against sexual exploitation from adult predators.

The Conservative government provided the leadership necessary to pass this legislation after many years of stalling by previous governments.

The Age of Protection legislation, as adopted by the House of Commons, proposes to raise the age at which youth can consent to sexual activity from 14 to 16 years of age.

This measure, which is supported by grieving parents and police forces, provides much-needed protection for children victimized by sexual predators. We are giving our police officers a tool they need to combat this victimization of teenagers.

The Age of Protection bill marks an important step toward strengthening our child protection laws and brings Canada's age of consent into conformity with that of many other like-minded countries.

We urge the Senate to give Bill C-22 a speedy passage.

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**For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or 297-2249**