



For Immediate Release

July 31, 2014

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Author George Runner Recognizes California's AMBER Alert Anniversary

SACRAMENTO – George Runner today recognized the 12th anniversary of California's AMBER Alert. Resulting from legislation authored by Runner, the program has recovered 275 abducted children since it was first implemented on July 31, 2002.

"The AMBER Alert is government at its best," said Runner. "It protects Californians, which is the first priority of government, and it's done efficiently and effectively."

The program, named after 9-year Amber Hagerman, who was abducted and murdered in Texas, gives the California Highway Patrol the authority and responsibility to coordinate the AMBER Alert system with Caltrans and TV and radio broadcasters. The program has not only helped hundreds of abducted children, it has also captured abductors before they could commit further crimes.

"It is vital for California to have a mechanism in place to assist in recovering our children safe and sound," said Runner. "I'm pleased to have played a part in the success of California's AMBER Alert network."

All 50 states have an AMBER Alert system in place.

Elected in November 2010, George Runner now represents more than nine million Californians as a member of the State Board of Equalization. For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/Runner.

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