

June 3, 2003

Akin Criticizes Federal Court Ruling Against County Ordinance

Washington - The 8th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled today that a St. Louis County law intended to limit minor's access to explicitly violent or sexually graphic video games is unconstitutional. Congressman Akin's statement regarding this ruling follows:

"Once again the lower courts have gotten it wrong and have overstepped their bounds.

"Although the right to free speech is one of our most cherished and guarded freedoms, the right of expression should not be used as a pretext for striking down a law designed to help parent's prevent their young children from being exposed to disturbing depictions of violence and explicit sexuality.

"It is disappointing to see such a ruling against such common sense legislation. It is the compelling rights of parents and children that have been overlooked by this decision. I hope that it is appealed and that the Supreme Court will rule that protecting children is not unconstitutional."