



Patty Wetterling

Patricia Lynn "Patty" Wetterling (born November 2, 1949) is an American advocate of [children's](#) safety and [chair](#) of the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#). Her advocacy particularly focuses on protecting children from [abduction](#) and [abuse](#). In recent years

Wetterling has become one of the most vocal critics of current [sex offender registry](#) laws pointing them as overly broad and unnecessarily causing tremendous harm to many. Her advocacy began after her son [Jacob](#) was abducted in 1989 and culminated in passage of federal [Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act](#). In September 2016, the remains of her son Jacob were discovered and positively identified.