

## **Reports: Beauprez backed bills on database allegedly used in ad**

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

October 23, 2006 Monday 5:55 PM GMT

Copyright 2006 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

**Section:** POLITICAL NEWS

**Length:** 622 words

**Dateline:** DENVER

### **Body**

---

GOP gubernatorial candidate Bob Beauprez voted for a bill in Congress to strengthen protections against misuse of a restricted federal database, months before he praised a federal agent who leaked information from the database to Beauprez's gubernatorial campaign, the Rocky Mountain News reported Monday.

Beauprez was also one of several co-sponsors of a separate bill dealing with the database, although he told The Denver Post last week he had never heard of it, The Post reported.

State investigators have said data from the National Crime Information Center, a database restricted to law-enforcement use, turned up in a Beauprez campaign ad attacking his Democratic opponent, former Denver District Attorney Bill Ritter, as being soft on illegal immigration.

The FBI is also investigating.

The ad unleashed another battle in an already contentious campaign for governor, which will be decided in just two weeks. Ritter has suggested federal law may have been broken when the information was leaked. Beauprez, a two-term congressman who is stepping down to run for governor, has accused Ritter of trying to divert attention from his record as a prosecutor.

Beauprez spokesman John Marshall acknowledged Monday the bills Beauprez had voted for or co-sponsored had "some small provision" on the NCIC.

"The bottom line is that he's a co-sponsor of hundreds of measures and, yeah, it's very possible that while being a co-sponsor of the bill he wouldn't have been necessarily familiar with every detailed provision in it dealing with NCIC," he said.

The 2005 Beauprez cosponsored dealt mostly with enforcing immigration laws. One of its 13 sections is entitled "Listing of Immigration Violators in the National Crime Information Center Database."

The provision beefing up protections against abusing the NCIC was contained in a massive 2005 Justice Department spending bill.

Ritter's campaign manager, Greg Kolomitz, dismissed the Beauprez campaign's explanation as "ludicrous."

"The congressman feigns ignorance when he thinks it suits him and hopes nobody will notice his congressional record. He calls a sworn law officer a folk hero for breaking the law. The congressman says he wants to be held accountable. That's exactly what were doing," Kolomitz said.

Reports: Beauprez backed bills on database allegedly used in ad

The ad at the center of the dispute said Ritter accepted a plea bargain with an illegal immigrant arrested in Colorado in 2001 who was later accused of sexually assaulting a child in California. The ad said the plea bargain didn't require deportation.

The Colorado Bureau of Investigation launched an inquiry after media reports and complaints from Ritter's campaign questioned whether the information came from the NCIC.

The CBI concluded the information did come from the NCIC and asked the FBI to look into it. It wasn't clear when the investigations would wrap up.

**Beauprez** has refused to say who provided the information but last week characterized the informant as a hero who risked his career to tell the truth.

"Our source saw a terrible wrong that needed to be made right and blew the whistle," **Beauprez** said. "Our source, in my opinion, performed a great act of courage."

A person in government who was briefed on the investigation told The Associated Press last week the information came from Cory Voorhis, a federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the investigation.

Voorhis has not publicly commented. His wife, Paula Voorhis, called him "a good and honest man" but declined to comment further.

ICE officials have not returned return calls and CBI spokesman Lance Clem declined to comment.

Recent polls have shown **Beauprez** trailing Ritter. The winner will replace Gov. **Bill** Owens, a Republican who is term-limited.

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newswire

**Subject:** GOVERNORS (93%); POLITICAL ADVERTISING (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (90%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (90%); INVESTIGATIONS (90%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (90%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (89%); IMMIGRATION (89%); CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS (89%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (89%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); LEGISLATION (78%); IMMIGRATION LAW (78%); US STATE GOVERNMENT (78%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (78%); APPROPRIATIONS (78%); CRIMINAL ASSAULT & BATTERY (75%); SEXUAL ASSAULT (75%); ARRESTS (75%); JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS (75%); PUBLIC PROSECUTORS (75%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (74%); SEX OFFENSES (74%); PLEA AGREEMENTS (71%); DEPORTATION (70%); CHILD ABUSE (62%); CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (50%)

**Company:** DENVER POST CORP (58%)

**Organization:** FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (56%)

**Industry:** POLITICAL ADVERTISING (90%)

Reports: Beauprez backed bills on database allegedly used in ad

**Person:** **BILL** RITTER (79%)

**Geographic:** DENVER, CO, USA (73%); COLORADO, USA (92%); CALIFORNIA, USA (79%)

**Load-Date:** October 24, 2006

---

End of Document