

HELP PREVENT THE IMPORTATION AND TRADE OF DANGEROUS BURMESE PYTHONS

From: The Honorable Kendrick B. Meek

Sent By: ali.dimatteo@mail.house.gov

Bill: H.R. 2811

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Dear Colleague,

This month, a 2 year old girl in Florida was killed by a Burmese Python which was kept as a pet in the girl's home. Although this particular owner did not have a permit for the snake, many people across the country do and have still been injured or killed by them. Incidents of injury and death from Burmese Pythons have been reported from Florida to Maine to California. These dangerous snakes are lawfully imported from Southeast Asia and are legally sold in the United States.

Burmese Pythons can grow to be up to 20 feet long and weigh over 250 lbs. Not only do they pose a risk when they escape their tanks, but as they begin to reach their adult size many owners turn them loose, posing a danger to children, pets and delicate ecosystems. Burmese Pythons are strong swimmers and highly adaptable, making their home in almost any warm climate. More than 600 of these pythons were removed from the Florida Everglades Park between 2002 and 2007, and these invasive species feed on many of the endangered native species found there, including white ibis, limpkin, round-tailed muskrats, and woodrats.

The import and trade of Burmese Pythons must be stopped. That is why I introduced **H.R. 2811**, to include these pythons on the list of dangerous animals, banning their importation and sale in the United States.

Please join me in co-sponsoring this important bill to protect children, pets and endangered ecosystems from dangerous Burmese Pythons.

For more information about this issue or to become a sponsor of **H.R. 2811**, please contact Ali DiMatteo in my office at ali.dimatteo@mail.house.gov or 5-4506.

Sincerely,

KENDRICK B. MEEK

Member of Congress