

Working to protect Kentucky property owners

One piece of legislation we will consider during the 2006 General Assembly comes on the heels of the United States Supreme Court's decision in a Connecticut eminent domain case.

A House Resolution prefiled for session, BR 134, urges congress to pass a constitutional amendment that protects the rights of property owners from government taking for the promotion of private economic development.

BR 134 urges the U.S. Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to protect private property owners

I am proud to cosponsor this measure, which sends a clear message to

congress and the supreme court that we believe our colleagues in congress must pass federal legislation to close this loophole.

The case - Kelo v. City of New London - came about when city officials in New London, Connecticut used eminent domain to strip private property owners of their property in order to allow a private industry to develop the area.

Eminent domain is generally reserved for public works projects like roads, utilities and public buildings. At issue is the fifth amendment, which allows governments to take private property through eminent domain if the land is for "public use."

While Kelo argued that cities have no right to take land except for projects with a clear public use, such as roads or schools, or to revitalize blighted areas, the court found that local governments do indeed have the authority to take land for economic development under the Fifth Amendment.

As a result of the Supreme Court ruling, local governments across

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the nation now have wide power to bulldoze residences for projects such as shopping malls and hotel complexes to generate tax revenue.

If passed, the resolution will be forwarded to all 535 voting members of congress.

Medicare

As you know, many changes are being made to the benefits associated with the Medicare health care program.

Please be aware of these changes, your health care is so important to you. For more information on changes to the Medicare program, please feel free to contact me in Frankfort or Medicare directly at 1-800-Medicare.

Elder Abuse

During the 2005 General Assembly, the legislature passed HB 298, landmark legislation that will help prevent the mistreatment of Kentucky's seniors by making it easier for state and local agencies to work together to ensure that elder abuse and vulnerable adult mistreatment cases don't fall through the cracks.

The bill will also require better training for law enforcement officers, victims advocates and others who deal with the mistreatment of elders.

Please contact me for further information about this bill.

Please feel free to visit my website at www.addiawuchner.com.



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A Capitol View

by State Representative Addia Wuchner

Dear Boone County Senior Friend,
It is an honor to represent you in the Kentucky House of Representatives. As your State Representative, I work to ensure that you have a voice in Frankfort.

Thank you for taking time to read my August/September edition of A Capitol View. As your legislator, I believe it is important to do all I can to keep this district updated on what we're doing in Frankfort, as well as news of interest to us here at home. The next edition of A Capitol View will be available in early September at locations throughout our community.

Over the next few months I will be emailing updates on what we are doing to represent you in Frankfort. If you would like to be added to this list, please email me at addia.wuchner@lrc.ky.gov or call me today at 1-800-372-7181. Your email address will be kept confidential. Also, please feel free to visit my website at www.addiawuchner.com.

In addition to A Capitol View, I am also preparing my annual questionnaire that includes many of the issues we will face during the 2006 General Assembly. It will mail in October, if you would like to make sure you are on the mailing list, I hope you will email or call me.

Thank you for your confidence and please know that I am available to you anytime you need me.

Sincerely,



Legislature studies issues for 2006

Since the adjournment of the 2005 General Assembly in March, quite a few people have asked me what the legislature does between now and the 2006 General Assembly.

It is a fair question since our legislature is one of only a handful in the nation considered to be part-time. However, that designation has more to do with our meeting schedule than the amount of time we devote to the position since the legislature's work goes on all year long.

Each state representative represents over 42,000 men and women and as elected officials it is our responsibility to serve both our districts as well as our Commonwealth whether we are in Frankfort or our hometown.

Part of that responsibility is carried out by keeping in contact, not only through updates like this one, but also by responding to letters, telephone calls and emails from constituents. This is one of the most rewarding aspects of my job as a state legislator because it puts a personal perspective on what we do in Frankfort. The requests range from speaking to school and civic groups to helping navigate state government agencies.



The interim also gives us the opportunity to prepare for next year's legislative session through the Interim Committee System. Interim Committees are basically a combination of the House and Senate Standing Committees that meet to discuss pending issues and possible legislation. They hold hearings and meetings in Frankfort and throughout the state to hear testimony on specific issues like the budget, Medicaid and school testing.



In addition to the interim meetings, legislators use this time to find out how other states are addressing many of the same issues that face the Commonwealth. Three national organizations hold conferences during the summer months to bring legislators from all 50 states together to share ideas. These conferences also offer the opportunity to learn more about federal programs as well as interstate compacts and other agreements made between states.

For a copy of the legislative meeting schedule, call 1-800-633-9650 or go online to www.lrc.ky.gov. As always, if you would like to discuss an issue facing the General Assembly, please contact me.

Senior Health Prescription Plans

Prescription drugs, a lifeline for those with both short and long-term illnesses, often cost so much that it presents a financial challenge to many Kentuckians.

For years, many pharmaceutical companies and nonprofit organizations have been offering assistance to individuals struggling to pay for prescription drugs. Pharmaceutical companies have also been active in providing assistance. Over the past several years, companies in the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America organization have made prescription medications available to millions of Americans at either no cost or low cost.

I thought it might be helpful to include a list of groups that provide this type of assistance, as well as their contact information and a summary of their services.

Prescription Drug Assistance Card Programs

These companies provide assistance to those who may not be able to afford the cost of prescription drugs. Each company must determine if you are eligible for their program.

Company	For More Information
Pfizer Share Card	1-800-717-6005 www.pfizersharecard.com
Lilly Answer Card	1-877-795-4559 www.lillyanswers.com
Together Rx	1-800-865-7211 www.together-rx.com

Prescription Drug Assistance Card Programs

For Seniors and Low Income Individuals with no RX benefits

Company	For More Information
IMCI	1-859-594-4624 www.rxcostsavings.com
Merck Medco	1-800-727-5400 www.merck.com
Pfizer Connection to Care	1-800-707-8990
Roche	1-877-757-6243 www.rocheusa.com
PhRMA	www.helpingpatients.org

VISITING THE CAPITOL

Over the past few months, I have had the opportunity to host constituents from throughout the district. As part of their visit, each group enjoyed a special guided tour of the historic Capitol Building.

If you are interested in a tour, I hope you will feel free to call and allow me to arrange one for you.

I am also happy to arrange a tour of the Governor's Mansion, the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History and other historic buildings in our capital city.

Contact Me Directly:

At Home:
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Contact Information

Leave a Message for Me
1-800-372-7181

Check Meeting Schedules
1-800-633-9650

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