



A Capitol View

*by State Representative Addia Wuchner
66th Legislative District
Summer 2006*

Dear Friends of the 66th District,

It is an honor to represent you in the Kentucky House of Representatives. As your State Representative, I work hard to make sure that you have a voice in Frankfort. Therefore, I feel it is important to keep you updated on what is happening in Frankfort.

This newsletter contains information on the accomplishments made during the 2006 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly as well as the results of my 2006 survey. I hope you find this information useful.

Thank you for your confidence and please feel free to contact at any time with your comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addia W. Wuchner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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**Legislative Survey Results
as of 2/9/06**

Should the General Assembly pass legislation to prevent local governments from abusing the right of eminent domain to take property from one owner in order to promote private economic development in an area?

- 87% Yes
- 9% No
- 2% No answer
- 2% No opinion

Should the Medicaid program cover the cost of brand name drugs for Medicaid patients if a generic drug is available?

- 61% Medicaid patients should only get generic drugs, if available.
- 23% Medicaid patients should have access to brand name drugs.
- 9% Other
- 4% No opinion
- 3% No answer

Would you favor an amendment to the Kentucky Constitution to limit only the amount of money awarded in civil court as a result of a medical malpractice case?

- 59% Yes
- 25% No
- 11% No opinion
- 5% No answer

Does your employer pay 100% of your health insurance costs?

- 79% No
- 11% No answer
- 10% Yes

If your employer does not pay 100% of your health care costs, how much do you pay each month?

- 31% \$101 - \$250
- 22% \$251 - \$350
- 20% \$0 - \$100
- 24% No answer
- 3% I have dropped my insurance, too expensive.

Do you believe the General Assembly should move to expand the definition of "violent offender" to include those who commit sexual abuse in the first degree upon a child under 12 and persons who commit criminal abuse?

- 92% Yes
- 4% No opinion
- 2% No
- 2% No answer

Should the General Assembly toughen the state's sex offender laws?

- 88% Yes
- 6% No opinion
- 4% No answer
- 2% No

If the state's sex offender laws are toughened, which changes would you support?

- 70% All
- 18% Prohibit sex offenders from living within 1,000 feet of a school, day care center or child care facility.
- 17% Utilize GPS-based electronic monitoring and probation and parole situations
- 14% Eliminate pretrial diversion, probation, shock probation and other forms of nonimposition of sentence
- 1% No answer

Disclaimer: Percentages total more than 100% because respondents chose more than one category.

Do you believe the General Assembly should increase the current limit that citizens are allowed to seek in small claims court, where attorney representation is not required, from the current value of \$1,500 to \$2,500 a rate more closely adjusted with inflation?

- 82% Yes
- 8% No opinion
- 7% No
- 3% No answer

Please rank, with one being highest, what you feel are priority areas for state spending.

- 45% Education
- 19% Roads and Bridges
- 12% Public Safety
- 9% Public Health Programs
- 6% Medicaid
- 2% Other
- 1% Parks and Recreation Facilities

Do you support expanding gambling in Kentucky?

- 40% On a case by case basis, only when approved by local referendum.
- 29% Under no circumstance
- 15% Other
- 11% Only by allowing racetracks to have casino-style video slot machines.
- 5% No answer



New laws approved during the General Assembly's 2006 regular session that do not carry an emergency clause or otherwise specify another effective date take effect Wednesday, July 12, 2006. Of the 1,012 bills introduced in the 2006 General Assembly, 223 became law. Among the new laws enacted:

Eminent domain: HB 508 lays down specific conditions before the state may condemn private property under the state's eminent domain laws. The bill, a response to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Kelo* case, prohibits the condemnation of private property unless it will be used for an exclusive public use such as government purposes, public utilities or to eliminate blighted areas.

Sex offenders: House Bill 3 expands the range of areas where convicted sex offenders cannot live. Now prohibited are areas within 1,000 feet of any

school, daycare center, or playground. Registered sex offenders will also be required to have a new photo taken every two years, out-of-state sex offenders will have five days to register in Kentucky after moving into the state, and the length of registration for some offenders is lengthened from 10 to 20 years. School employees, volunteers, and contractors will be required to submit to both state and national criminal background checks. Juveniles convicted of Class A, B, and C felonies will have those records opened to the public.

Concealed deadly weapons: HB 290 blocks the identity of concealed-carry permit holders from the public record, and only law enforcement officers will be able to check the records of deadly weapons training classes. In addition, lawfully owned weapons and ammunition cannot be seized by authorities during disasters or emergencies.

School employees: SB 51 prohibits a loss of income or benefits, including leave time, to teachers or other school employees who are assaulted on the job. School districts would be required to maintain their income and benefits up to one year after the injury.

Prescription authority: Senate Bill 65 gives advanced registered nurse practitioners the authority to write prescriptions for controlled substances with the approval of their supervising doctor. The legislation expands on their current ability to write certain prescriptions, including antibiotics.

Credit reports: HB 54 allows consumers to request a security freeze on their credit report, requiring the credit agency to get express authorization from the consumer before releasing the report to third parties.

Driver's licenses: HB 129 eliminates the fee for a new driver's license mandated by an address change if the driver did not move. The law targets Kentuckians whose counties expand their 911 capabilities and change road names as a result.

Quick clearance: HB 272 requires drivers in a non-fatal accident with no visible injuries to move their vehicles to the side of the road while waiting for law enforcement to arrive.

Inmate lawsuits: HB 193 will require state inmates to exhaust all administrative remedies before filing a lawsuit.

Nursing home inspections: SB 141 allows state employees to be fired if they provide advance notice of an upcoming inspection of a long-term care facility. The law's goal is to preserve the "surprise" and integrity of the inspections.

Elder Abuse. House Bill 298 requires the state to have sufficient staff to respond to abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Encourages counties to develop their own protocols for elder abuse investigations. Promotes having a prosecutor who specializes in adult abuse, neglect, exploitation. Provides direction to prosecutors to accommodate these victims, and requires referrals to other services, and an explanation of a decision not to prosecute. Requires the Attorney General's Office to develop a prosecutors' manual on Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop specific training for judges and court personnel. adult abuse, neglect, exploitation.