



Congressional News

From Congressman

Jim Sensenbrenner

NUMBER 171 • APRIL 2006

What's inside:

- Creating a Safer Wisconsin
- Ending Illegal Immigration
- Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

How to Contact Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner:

To write about issues or request publications, contact me at:

2449 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515-4905
TEL: (202) 225-5101

To get help with federal agencies, contact me at:

120 Bishops Way, #154, Brookfield, WI 53005-6294
TEL: (262) 784-1111

Outside Metro Calling Area: (800) 242-1119

email: sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov

Please visit my website at www.house.gov/sensenbrenner to sign up for e-news updates on the latest issues before Congress.

Working for a Safer Wisconsin

Congressmen Jim Sensenbrenner, Mark Green, and America's Most Wanted host John Walsh, speak on behalf of the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act at a press conference in March.

One would be hard-pressed to deny that we have a problem with crime in parts of Wisconsin, particularly in Milwaukee. Violent crime in Milwaukee was so bad last year that the city was featured in a *New York Times* front page story. The Department of Justice has also designated Milwaukee as one of six locations to qualify for its Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative in March.

Local crime reduction requires every effort of our state and county officials. As your Congressman, it is my job to work on legislation that provides Wisconsin and other states with the tools they need to combat crime. A premier example of such legislation is the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act (HR 4472), which passed the House of Representatives on March 8. HR 4472 incorporates language from three other bills that I shepherded to passage in the House last year. The result is a bipartisan and comprehensive piece of legislation that contains proposals to:

People understand that crime isn't just an inner-city problem. The consequences of Milwaukee's crime rate extend beyond city limits because all of us are affected by incidents such as the recent disappearance of the two young children from the area. It's why we hold our children's hands a little tighter in public, and check in on them once more after we've tucked them into bed.

As is often the case, the Children's Safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act is yet another piece of legislation that is awaiting Senate action. Victims groups and the parents of abused children have repeatedly stood with me and called for the passage of this bill in both chambers. It is now up to that body, which includes Senators Kohl and Feingold, to do its part to provide Milwaukee with the additional help it clearly needs in order to provide a safe environment for the residents of Southeastern Wisconsin.

✓ better protect our children from convicted sex offenders

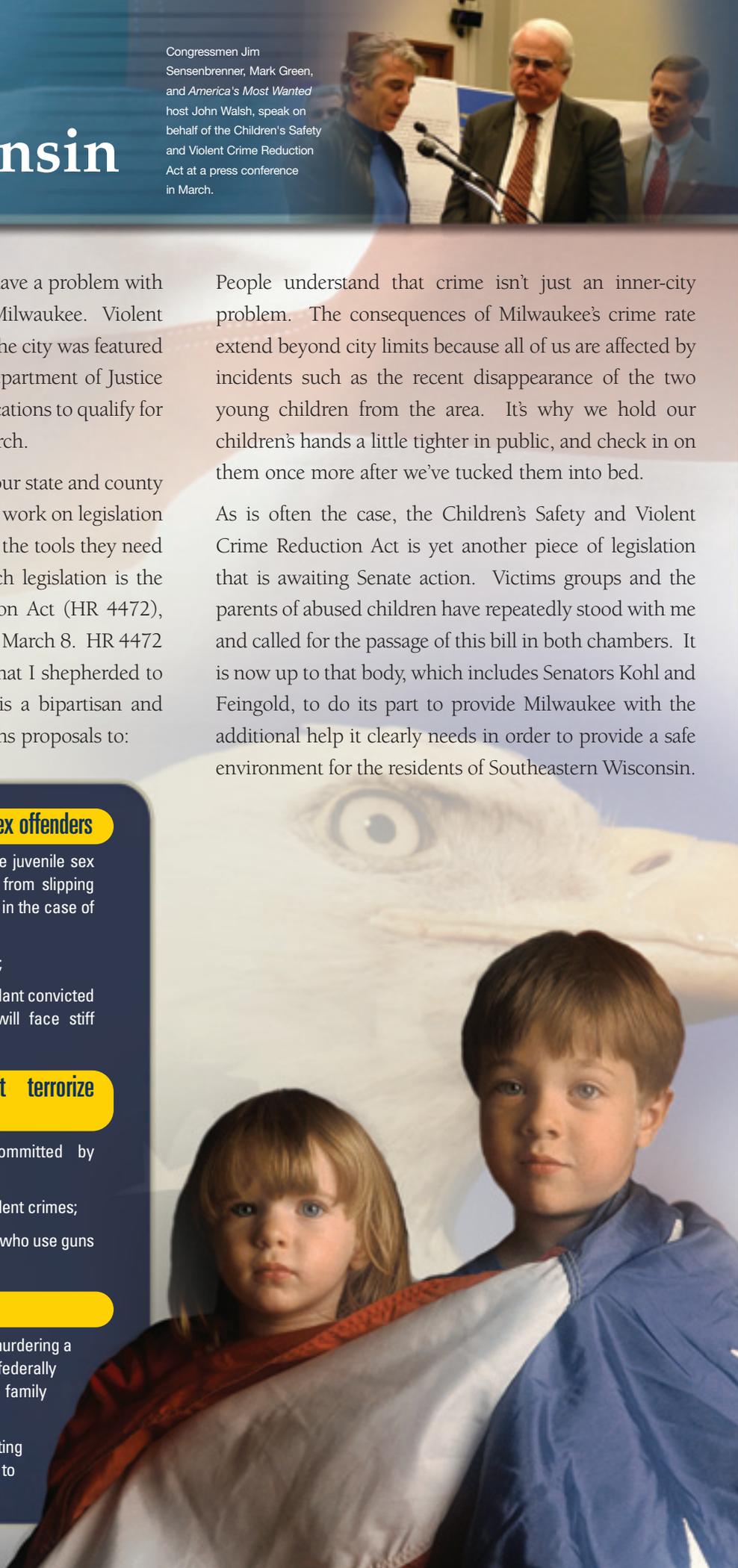
- expands the definitions of a sex offense to include juvenile sex offenses in order to prevent a juvenile offender from slipping through the system unnoticed and re-offending, as in the case of Amie Zyla's abuser;
- strengthens sex offender notification requirements;
- amends current federal law to ensure that a defendant convicted of the most heinous crimes against children will face stiff penalties.

✓ combat violent criminal gangs that terrorize our communities

- increases penalties for crimes typically committed by gang members;
- includes reforms of the statute of limitations for violent crimes;
- increases penalties for use against gang members who use guns to murder, assault or sell drugs.

✓ enhance judicial security

- increases penalties for assaulting, kidnapping, or murdering a US official, federal judge, law enforcement officer, federally funded public safety officer, or an immediate family member of such an individual;
- provides state and local courts with access to existing grant programs for security purposes in order to better protect the judicial process.



Putting an End to Illegal Immigration

In recent weeks, as we have seen the debate on immigration heat up across the country, I have found myself reflecting on what it means to be an American. I understand that I am fortunate to have the privilege of living in the United States of America. This feeling helps me better understand why people want to immigrate to the United States, and why as a result of years of open doors, we are today a nation of immigrants.

But there is a difference between people who come to this country lawfully, and those who decide to break into the country through a back door or an unguarded border. It's the difference between inviting a visitor into your home, and having someone break into your house and violating your trust. This is the crux of our immigration problem.

Border security and immigration reform are among the toughest and most complex government policy issues I've ever had to grapple with. In order to arrive at a policy that reflects that we are both a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws, we require a civil, careful, and thoughtful discussion.

Last year, I introduced the Border Protection, Anti-Terrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act (HR 4437), which passed the House of Representatives in December in a bipartisan manner. My legislation focuses on the insidious human traffickers, crooked employers who hire illegal aliens, and ruthless alien gang members who terrorize communities throughout the country. Specifically, it:

- **Builds a fence** – it protects our nation's borders by establishing physical barriers and incorporating state-of-the-art surveillance technology to ensure comprehensive coverage;
- **Increases penalties for alien smuggling** – to teach smugglers a lesson, it increases criminal penalties for harboring and smuggling illegal aliens by establishing mandatory minimum sentences;
- **Requires employers to verify the status of their employees** – makes mandatory an employment eligibility verification system by confirming or denying the authenticity of Social Security numbers offered by new hires;
- **Cracks down on alien gang members** – renders alien street gang members inadmissible and deportable, and authorizes the Attorney General to designate groups as criminal street gangs if they meet certain criteria.

Illegal immigration is an expensive problem for law-abiding citizens. Americans and legal aliens have to pay more for police protection, for classrooms to educate our children, and for hospital and healthcare costs. This burden on you is wrong. It undermines the economy, and it puts undue pressure on us to pay even more in taxes to pay for those who are here in America.

The Senate is currently deliberating its version of an immigration bill, which by all accounts, appears to be headed in the wrong direction. The bill that passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 27 repeats the mistakes made 20 years ago when we provided amnesty to illegal aliens and let unethical businesses off the hook. The Senate Judiciary bill includes amnesty for the 11 to 12 million undocumented aliens in the US who have managed to elude the authorities. My question to you is this: when someone's first step in this country is taken in direct violation of our laws, how can anyone then support a process that allows them to continue residing in the US, while others wait up to 20 years before they are able to take their first step into this country legally?

The Senate Judiciary bill also incorporates provisions of the DREAM Act, which grants illegal aliens in-state tuition to attend college, at the same time that they charge the children of American citizens from other states much more. It is estimated that approximately 65,000 illegal immigrant students graduate from high schools each year, so, that is potentially 65,000 fewer in-state slots that would be available to legal residents wishing to go to college. That is simply not fair to parents and students who are juggling loans and jobs to make ends meet.

Illegal immigration is a high-stakes issue, with many passionate and polarized viewpoints. My bill to address it is a start, and though it represents a solid first step in an effort to fix a broken immigration system, I understand that it will not be the final product on this issue. Clearly, a thoughtful and respectful dialogue is needed if Congress and the public are to arrive at a consensus and implement a workable solution. I have already reserved my seat at the Conference table, and I look forward to working with the Senate to put an end to illegal immigration.

This mailing was prepared, published
and mailed at taxpayer expense.

It is provided as a service to 5th
Congressional District constituents.

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Jim Sensenbrenner". To the right of the signature, the letters "MC" are printed in a small font.

Printed on Partially Recycled Paper

Congressman Sensenbrenner wants your voice to be heard!

"I will host a series of town hall meetings in the district during May and June. Please save the schedule below and bring your questions for me on the issues of the day. Feel free to contact my district office if you require special accommodations to attend. I hope to see you there."

– Congressman
Jim Sensenbrenner

Town Hall Meetings In the area

Monday, May 1st

7:00pm

West Allis Library

Sunday, May 21st

7:00pm

Germantown Village Hall

Thursday, June 1st

7:00pm

Pewaukee City Hall

Saturday, May 13th

9:00am

Wauwatosa Library

Wednesday, May 31st

7:00pm

Brown Deer Public Library