

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

FIFTH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

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AND TECHNOLOGY



WASHINGTON OFFICE:

ROOM 2449

RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4905

202-225-5101

DISTRICT OFFICE:

120 BISHOPS WAY, ROOM 154

BROOKFIELD, WI 53005-6294

262-784-1111

OUTSIDE MILWAUKEE METRO

CALLING AREA

1-800-242-1119

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4905

June 5, 2007

The Honorable Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells Street
City Hall Rm.201
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mayor Barrett:

I am writing to request your support for H.R. 2466, the Violent Crime Reduction Act of 2007, which is a crime fighting bill I recently introduced in the House of Representatives.

The Violent Crime Reduction Act would: increase penalties for violent crimes in aid of racketeering activity; create a new criminal offense for violent acts committed during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime; enhance penalties for using a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence or drug trafficking crime; provide assistance for multi-jurisdictional anti-gang task forces; and exempt off-duty law enforcement officers under the Gun Free School Zones Act.

There is no question that the City of Milwaukee and its surrounding suburbs are becoming less safe everyday. According to preliminary figures released yesterday, as a whole, law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation reported an increase of 1.3 percent in the number of violent crimes brought to their attention in 2006 when compared to figures reported for 2005. The violent crime category includes murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. In Milwaukee, violent crime is up substantially. Nearly 7,700 violent crimes were committed last year, compared with roughly 6,000 in 2005. Thankfully, murders and rapes were down, but every other category of violent crime saw a marked increase last year.

My bill will help elected officials and local law enforcement fight crime on the streets. The anti-gang task forces provision in this bill will help with the investigation and prosecution of violent gangs. I believe that such task forces could help you get on top of the situation in Milwaukee and make the streets safer for children.

Although we've had our differences in the past, I look forward to working with you to make Milwaukee and the surrounding community safer for families. Please join me in supporting the Violent Crime Reduction Act. I hope to count on your support to help this legislation move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.", written over a circular scribble.

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Member of Congress