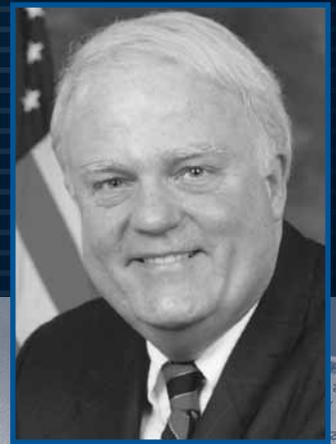


Congressman **Jim Sensenbrenner**

News From Congress

Number 172 – June 2006



Putting an End to Wasteful Spending

One of the most important and difficult jobs that Congress has, is determining how taxpayer money should be spent and what it should be spent on. Folks familiar with my views know that I am convinced Congress spends far too much of your money, and that much of what Congress spends is wasteful.

A major source of this excessive spending comes from the pet-projects that Members of Congress try to get funded so they can go back to their districts and tout the money they're bringing in. From the \$286 billion highway bill that passed last year, bloated with 6,371 special projects including the notorious "Bridge to Nowhere" project in Alaska, to appropriations bills Congress has recently passed for next year, we are all too familiar with the horror stories of wasted taxpayer money. With the exception of a bill that would help our nation's veterans, I have voted against all appropriations bills that the House has passed this year, because they have all been laden with pork.

I believe the best way to fix this problem is to shed light on the practice by attributing earmarks to the Members of Congress who sponsor them. To that end, I have cosponsored legislation to modify House rules to show the public exactly what Congress spends on individual projects in each district, attribute each earmark to its

sponsoring Member of Congress, and require a demonstration that the funding has gone through a normal vetting process. Additionally, for those wasteful projects that still slip through, I support reinstating the line-item veto to give Presidents the power to eliminate wasteful projects one-by-one.

If pork spending goes unchecked, we will transfer the weight of our debts on to the shoulders of our children, and the cycle will continue down to future generations. That is not responsible politics, and that is not the legacy that Congress should be known for.



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. **For details see page two.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**

E-Mail: sensenbrenner@mail.house.gov; Website:
www.house.gov/sensenbrenner

Reminder...

Office Hours & Town Hall Meetings

Back page



Working for a Safer Wisconsin

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 law enforcement with the tools they need to combat crime. The Children's safety and Violent Crime Reduction Act (HR 4472) passed the House on March 8th. Highlights of the bill:

✔ 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 recently passed its version of an immigration bill, which by all accounts, appears to repeat the mistakes made 20 years ago when we provided amnesty to illegal aliens and let unethical businesses off the hook. The Senate bill includes amnesty for most of 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 or more 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 look forward to working with the Senate to put an end to illegal immigration.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE CARD

Respondent #1

1. Yes No
2. Yes No
3. Yes No
4. Yes No
5. a b c d e f
6. Yes No
7. Yes No
8. a b
9. a b c d e
10. a b c d e
11. a b
12. a b
13. Yes No
14. Yes No
15. a b c d e

Respondent #2

1. Yes No
2. Yes No
3. Yes No
4. Yes No
5. a b c d e f
6. Yes No
7. Yes No
8. a b
9. a b c d e
10. a b c d e
11. a b
12. a b
13. Yes No
14. Yes No
15. a b c d e

----- CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL -----

2006 Annual Questionnaire

The 109th Congress is involved with many issues vital to you, your family, and the nation. Please take a few minutes to complete this year's questionnaire. All questions have a YES or NO answer unless otherwise indicated. Please mark your answer by placing an "X" in the space provided. In some cases, a YES or NO answer may seem oversimplified, but I am often left with that same choice when voting on complex legislation on the House floor. Please let me know what matters to you. Fill out the response card, place a stamp on it, and return it to my Washington office. Thank you for your time.

(1) Should non-U.S. citizens and illegal immigrants be eligible to receive Social Security benefits?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(2) Do you think our borders must be secured and our immigration policy reformed before the country debates any sort of a guest-worker amnesty program?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(3) Do you support the use of military troops to secure our nation's borders?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(4) Would you support a law protecting grieving family members from anti-war protestors while attending the funeral of an American soldier?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(5) What country do you see as the greatest threat to the United States?

(a) Iran **(b)** North Korea **(c)** Iraq **(d)** Russia
(e) China **(f)** Other (please specify)

(6) Do you support proposals considered in Congress to temporarily suspend the federal gasoline tax to provide some relief from gas prices?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(7) Federal transportation dollars are allocated to states with the goal of improving their roads and transportation infrastructure. Should Governor Doyle be allowed to divert money from these federal funds, as he has done in the past, to use on special projects of his choosing that are unrelated to transportation?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(8) Under current law, seniors are barred from obtaining prescription drugs that are shipped to the United States from other countries. Should this law be repealed?

(a) Yes, seniors should be able to buy their drugs from other countries.
(b) No, these drugs have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration and cannot be considered safe.

(9) Studies have shown that three-quarters of new jobs in America are created by small businesses. What course of action should Congress take to support small businesses and create more jobs? (Check all that apply.)

(a) Allow small businesses to pool their resources to provide affordable healthcare for employees.

(b) Provide further tax relief.

(c) Do away with frivolous lawsuits.

(d) Reduce regulations on small businesses.

(e) All of the above.

(10) How should the U.S. address the loss of American manufacturing jobs to overseas competitors? (Check all that apply)

(a) Reduce taxes and regulations that allow businesses to better compete.

(b) Negotiate with other countries to encourage them to trade more fairly.

(c) Enact tariffs on imported goods.

(d) Increase government spending on programs to retrain displaced workers.

(e) Take countries (like China) to task for violations of intellectual property rights, which lead to the production of mass quantities of illegal pirated works.

(11) Should efforts to provide relief from taxes like the marriage penalty, the capital gains tax, and Alternative Minimum Tax, among others, be made permanent?

(a) Yes, make tax relief permanent.

(b) No, raise taxes to previous levels.

(12) Earmarks are "pet projects" of individual Members of Congress that are often tacked into spending bills. Do you support or oppose earmarks?

(a) Support -- earmarks are a good way for Members of Congress to bring money back to their District.

(b) Oppose -- earmarks are just another way the federal government wastes money.

(13) Should Presidents be given the authority of a line-item veto?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(14) Do you support expanding school choice programs?

(a) Yes **(b)** No

(15) Which Wisconsin county do you live in?

(a) Jefferson County

(b) Milwaukee County

(c) Ozaukee County

(d) Washington County

(e) Waukesha County

PLEASE PRINT BELOW

Please place first class postage here

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

REP. JIM SENSENBRENNER
2449 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4905

CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE, STAMP, AND MAIL

Office Hours

Monday, July 3

8:30am Butler Village Hall
9:30am Lannon Village Hall
10:30am Jackson Village Hall
11:30am Addison Town Hall
1:00pm Kewaskum Village Hall

Thursday, July 6

9:00am Bayside Village Hall
9:45am Fox Point Village Hall
10:30am River Hills Village Hall
11:30am Saukville Village Hall
1:30pm Belgium Village Hall
2:15pm Fredonia Village Hall
3:00pm Newburg Village Hall

Friday, July 7

8:30am Helenville Fire Hall
9:15am Sullivan Village Hall
10:00am Palmyra Village Hall
11:00am Dousman Village Hall
11:45am Genesee Town Hall
12:30pm Wales Village Hall
2:00pm Nashotah Village Hall
2:45pm Merton Town Hall
3:30pm Merton Village Hall
4:15pm Pewaukee Village Hall

Town Hall Meetings

Sunday, July 2

7:00pm
Grafton
Village Hall

Thursday, July 6

7:00pm
Hartford
City Hall

Sunday, July 9

7:00pm
West Bend
City Hall

Sunday, July 16

7:00pm
Brookfield
Safety Building

Sunday, July 23

7:00pm
New Berlin
City Hall

Sunday, July 30

7:00pm
Richfield
Town Hall

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-4905

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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

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



Postal Patron-Local

5th Congressional District
Wisconsin