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September 19, 2007

The Portantino Press:
News from Assemblymember Anthony Portantino
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Community Events



Dear Catherine,

A lot of folks ask me what was my biggest surprise upon entering the answer is how quickly the time flies by.

Anthony

First Session Comes to Close

I can't believe that my first legislative year is already over. I'm proud to have introduced eight bills to the Governor's desk. My first bill introduced, AB 34, created a new system for collecting umbilical cord blood for transplant and research and was passed by the Assembly 79-0 and the Senate 39-1. AB 668 endeavors to help community colleges receive our state's fair share of federal financial aid. If we can bring California up to the national average, we'll generate \$400 million for our most needy students. AB 702 protects the intellectual property of pioneers of contemporary music - largely African American entertainers have been robbed of their identity, financial security, and likeness by shady promoters for years. AB 702 seeks to reform the practice. AB 1413 seeks to bring much needed reform to the Cal State University System by fighting this good government reform bill for months, ostensibly because it broadened the bill to designees of members, I took the CSU requested amendment only to find them continuing to fight this bill till the bitter end. Good government and sunshine decision making is a broadly shared issue and AB 1413 enjoyed such support on its way to the Governor's desk. One can only hope the CSU administration recognizes it does the students and faculty a disservice to have the administration resist the open government reforms in this bill.

AB 1409 on Concurrent Enrollment will be back in January as a two year bill. I haven't completed the concept and will be pushing this bill hard in 2008. ACR 21 calls on the University of California to create robust academic partnerships and student exchange programs with Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Although both of these measures enjoyed broad support and had absorbed existing programs they were held in Senate Appropriations. ACR 21 has enjoyed tremendous grassroots support and I am very optimistic that come January the Senate will let it out.

I know that healthcare is on everyone's mind. The Speaker and Governor have called a special session to grapple with a universal health care plan that makes sense for California. I support that effort and continue to believe that a plan will be forthcoming. Out of control costs and 800,000 children in California without health insurance underscore the urgent need to bring a conclusion to

- [Portantino Legislative Package](#)

Bella Plays Soccer

My five-year-old, Bella, began soccer this week. She even scored three goals. It's quite a hoot to watch the girls bunch up and then break out when the ball springs loose. Two games into the season and I've already forgotten about David Beckham.

Sofia Wants to Drive



Sofia wants to take her driver's test. Okay, so here's my dilemma: She's still not ready to solo. Do I let her take the test and hope she fails or do I hold off on her taking the test? Thank goodness I voted for the bill that bans teenagers from using electronic devices while driving. I wish I had asked that radios and CD players be included!

Poor Ellen - She's not used to having me home so much. Being in the Assembly generates a lot of paper to leave around the house in stacks. As a well organized Executive she just doesn't understand my penchant to spread things out. Who does control the counter tops and kitchen table any way?

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino's Children's Health Forum

Childhood Obesity and Diabetes

Saturday, October 20th from 9am to 1pm at Washington Elementary School, 1520 Raymond, Pasadena

I invite you to join me for a health forum to obtain information surrounding the prevention and treatment of Childhood Obesity and Diabetes. Presentations and demonstrations will be offered. For more information or to rsvp, please contact Jarvis Emerson in my district office (626) 577-9944

Play It Safe!

Sunday, October 7, 2007

Make this a fun-filled and educational day for the whole family. This will be an awesome (and free!) emergency preparedness and safety fair in the auxilliary parking lot at Descanso Gardens in La Canada Flintridge. Participants can take fire extinguisher training, watch a jaws-of-life extraction, see the children play in firefighting foam, ride the Quaky-Shaky van, visit Skeletons in the Closet, meet Smokey Bear and Sparky, watch heart defibrillator demonstrations, see search and rescue equipment, canine demonstrations, and much, much more. You can connect with a very wide array of public agencies, non-profits, and private sector vendors who are involved in community preparedness. Refill your fire extinguishers at a discount. Collect useful information and purchase emergency kits and other safety products. Teens will love the Skeletons in the Closet exhibit. This event is co-sponsored by the Honorable Anthony Portantino (CA State Assembly), the La Canada Flintridge

Chamber of Commerce, the City of La Canada, Los Angeles County Fire Department, Los Angeles County Sheriff's, and Descanso Gardens. This is an event you won't want to miss. Contact Bill Hackett in my district office for further information at 626 577-9944.

"The time is always ripe to do right"

-Martin Luther King

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