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July 18, 2007

The Portantino Press:
News from Assemblymember Anthony Portantino
Legislation ~ Campus Visits ~ Summer Camp ~ More on Driving
~ Clean Air ~ John Edwards



Dear Catherine,

I hope everyone is finding time and places to stay cool this summer. I've learned that Sacramento gets just as hot as the San Gabriel Valley. On the environment: I've been pleased to support some much needed environmental bills that have come to the Assembly Transportation Committee; most importantly, Senator Lowenthal's port clean up bill, SB 974. Not only will this bill address needed port clean up, it will help pay for important San Gabriel Valley rail grade separations. These separations are needed to move goods and services and will drastically increase the quality of life for communities through the Alameda Corridor. SB 974 was widely

supported by the cities and communities of the San Gabriel Valley.

Anthony

Legislation

Several of my higher education bills are moving through the Senate after passing the Assembly. AB 1409 seeks to create more partnerships between high schools and community colleges through concurrent enrollment opportunities. Many of you might remember that I campaigned on creating a K-14 education model for our children. AB 1409 endeavors to further that goal. In AB 668, I hope to return an additional \$400 million in federal financial aid to California's most needy community college students and AB 365 charges the California Post Secondary Education Committee with conducting a work force analysis so we can tailor curriculum to meet future workforce needs.

I continue to passionately push AB 34 in an effort to set up a public infrastructure for the collection of umbilical cord blood. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists as well as our own City of Hope, Children's Hospital of Oakland, CMA and many other groups have been tremendous advocates for this bill. It passed the Assembly 79-0 and the Senate Health Committee unanimously. For a complete list of my bill package go to:

- [Portantino Legislative](#)

Package

Campus Visits

As Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee, I'm trying to visit as many public colleges I can. Thus far, I've toured and met with administrators from Citrus College, Glendale College, the Canyons, Mt. SAC, San Diego State, UC Irvine, UCLA, and am looking forward to visit Santa Ana College and Cal State Los Angeles in the near future. I hope to continue broadening my knowledge of the public college system through these personal visits. I was honored to deliver the commencement address at recent Pasadena City College Graduation and participated in a panel discussion with Superintendent of Instruction Jack O'Connell at DeAnza College in Northern California. Additionally, I'm having a hearing on my reform Bill, AB 1413, made it out of the Senate Education Committee. Our institutions are working on AB 1413 seeks to bring good government reform to the CSU. I'm proud of the bi-partisan Faculty Association-sponsored bill is garnering support.

Summer Camp Blues



I miss Sofia who's in her fourth week of summer camp. I miss her Spanish language immersion summer camp in Minnesota. My 16 year old for four weeks is tough on this dad. Don't know how it goes and I certainly miss her.

More on Driving

One of the reasons I've been missing Sofia so much is not having her weekly driving lessons. She has her permit, but Ellen who was actually made me relevant again. I know it's just for a brief six months in a teenager's life but I'm being needed again. I will delay Sofia getting her license for as long as I can.

The Bella on the other hand, continues to be an extremely busy five-year old. Last week's visit to Kidspace followed by ice-cream at Perry's Joint. Frankly, I can't keep up with her.

Clean Air

Car Show and Film Festival, July 22

I will be co-hosting and attending the free Clean-Air Car Show and Film Festival organized by Pasadena, at El Centro and Fair Oaks on Sunday, July 22 from 11 AM - 6 PM. This will be an opportunity for us to experience a wide selection of current and next-generation technology vehicles from Rialto (including "Who Killed the Electric Car?"), and gather information during seminars with industry experts and by visiting exhibits. Call (626) 403-7380 for information. Hope to see you there!

John Edwards - National Poverty Action Week

Volunteer @ LA Regional Food Bank

As many of you know, I have decided to support John Edwards in his campaign to be our nation's next president. I want to be a person with a real understanding of the day to day challenges that Americans face and I want to make it a little easier. Our local One Corps group, under the leadership of Asa Hopkins, is taking action. I've spent this week highlighting the continuing problem of poverty in America:

What: National Poverty Action Week: Volunteer @ LA Regional Food Bank

*When: Saturday, July 21st at 8:45 AM
Where: 1734 East 41st St, Los Angeles, CA 90058*

It's time to take action to fight poverty, now, and not wait until 2009. Please join us at the L.A. Regional Food Bank on Saturday to make a difference for the tens of thousands of people who depend on the Food Bank.

Please RSVP so that I can send you directions and other information, including a form you need to fill out before arrival.

For more information, and to RSVP for this event, please click here:

- [John Edwards One Corps](#)

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"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."

-William Arthur Ward

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