

The Portantino Press:

**News from Assemblymember Anthony Portantino
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Her License**



Dear Friends,

I am very proud to report that the Assembly selected an outstanding legislator, Karen Bass, to serve as the next Speaker of the Assembly. Karen will take over from Fabian Nuñez sometime this year. She has been an exceptional Majority Leader and will make a terrific Speaker. Karen has been the strongest advocate for Foster Children in the legislature and is a solid progressive.

I appreciate the support I received from so many of you during this race - I feel so blessed to serve such a truly great district!

Although the budget is quickly dominating this year's legislative session, I've authored several bills of which I am proud. I've detailed a few of the stand-outs below.

Thanks for all of your support,

Anthony

Legislative Update:

AB 2322: Foster Home Local Incentive

In an effort to incentivize the placement of foster children into family settings, I've introduced AB 2322. This bill allows cities to

create programs that incentivize the placement of foster children within our communities in a home setting. Assemblymembers Jarred Huffman and Ira Ruskin have joined me as authors on this bill.

AB 2234: Breast Cancer Screening

Jean Stroud stopped me one day in the La Cañada Post Office and asked me to look into how California law dictates early detection of breast cancer. After researching the issue, I found that California law is in desperate need of an update as it currently runs counter to American Medical Association Guidelines. Our laws focus solely on age as a determinate, rather than on the nine risk factors suggested by the AMA, and recommend mammograms as the only form of detection. We are leaving out newer forms of detection that are now available, in addition to the traditional mammogram. I'm very happy to say that, as a result of this research, I've introduced AB 2234 to update California law in order to conform to AMA guidelines, which will increase early detection of breast cancer and the ability to save lives.

AB 2521: Senior Housing

Last year, I attended the annual session of California's Senior Legislature. One bill that our seniors suggested would allow seniors who receive housing vouchers to cohabitate at a reduced cost to the State. This not only saves California money, but encourages our seniors to build a sense of connectedness and camaraderie as well as an in-home support system by living with a roommate. I am pleased to work with our Senior Legislature by carrying AB 2521 on their behalf.

Woman of the Year



With great excitement, I was pleased to name Temple City Mayor Judy Wong as the 2008 Woman of the Year for the 44th Assembly District. Judy's commitment and dedication to the community and our shared constituency is tremendous and laudable. She is an asset to Temple City and the San Gabriel Valley.

Before becoming the first elected Chinese American member of the Temple City Council in 2003, Judy Wong served as the President of the Temple City Chinese- American Association for two terms. She has devoted countless hours volunteering on the Gang Advisory Committee and the Asian Community Advisory Committee for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and recently organized a "Support Our Kids" forum in order to help address common issues facing kids from different ethnic backgrounds. Judy volunteers her services as an interpreter to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, assisting victims of domestic violence. She also provides interpretation for various

schools in the San Gabriel Valley area.

I was pleased to have Judy recognized during a special session of the State Assembly on March 10th. It was great fun to host Judy and her son, Anthony Ma, in Sacramento and to have Judy join me on the floor of the Assembly where she was formally introduced and honored for her many contributions to Temple City and the 44th Assembly District.

Congratulations again Judy for this well deserved honor!

Be an Angel+Save a Life

One of the great benefits of being an Assemblymember is the opportunity to learn about countless dedicated people and organizations that are doing wonderful work to help others. Through the work done on my umbilical cord blood bill (AB 34) I was introduced to "Be an Angel+Save a Life," a 100% student run and organized program designed to add potential donors to the Bone Marrow National Registry. The simple ten-minute process of "swabbing" the inside of the mouth is the first step in helping to save the life of a person in need of a bone marrow or stem cell transplant.

Jacob Sachse started "Be an Angel+Save a Life" in 2007 as a way of "paying it forward" after the life of his father, Ed, was saved by a stranger who donated her stem cells. Working with his mother, Julie Sachse, and approximately 40 high school students, the first bone marrow/stem cell drive was held in November 2007.

Phase One, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting Phase 1 clinical research and treatment programs for patients with cancer, partnered with the students so that tax-deductible donations could be made both online (via the Phase One website) and by check through its foundation. In addition to Phase One, our own City of Hope worked with the students on the drive.

Because of the success of the first "Be an Angel+Save a Life" drive, the group has made its program available to organizations and individuals who want to add more "angels" to save more lives.

For more information, please visit their website:

- [Be an Angel+Save a Life](#)

Pine Wood Derby



On March 8th, Bella and I participated in the Y-Tribes Pinewood

Derby. Bella desperately wanted her car to represent Pegasus ridden by a Fairy Princess. Although a tall order design-wise, I was saved by Tom's Toys in Montrose, who had a perfect Pegasus that I was able to cut up for our car.

Bella had a great time with the hot glue gun and the white spray paint.

Sofia gets her license



Of all the entries in my newsletters, I always receive the most comments about the plight of Sofia and her driving lessons. Well, she passed the test last week and is now on the road. I was a little scared the first time she drove solo and

told me how "fun" it was.

I tried to tell her that driving isn't "fun" it's a mode of transportation to get from point A to point B. Apparently, that was the total dork answer. She rolled her eyes and marched right past me. Oh well!

email: info@portantinfoforassembly.com
web: <http://www.portantinfoforassembly.com>

"The only way to discover the limits of the possible is to go beyond them into the impossible." - Arthur C. Clarke

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