

INSIDE: THE 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT STANDARD

Delivering the news you need to know

Congressman Joe Sestak
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Joe Sestak
M.C.
Prsrt Std

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

Congressman Sestak wants to hear from you!



If you have a question or issue, or would like to share your opinion, please feel free to contact or visit the Washington, D.C. Office or District Office in Media.

WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE

1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2011
Fax: (202) 226-0280

DISTRICT OFFICE

600 N. Jackson Street
Suite 203
Media, PA 19063
Phone: (610) 892-8623
Fax: (610) 892-8628

Visit my website: www.sestak.house.gov

PLEASE JOIN CONGRESSMAN SESTAK FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL VETERANS SUMMIT

Monday, May 12, 2008
5:30 PM – 9:00 PM
Ridley High School
(901 Morton Ave., Folsom, PA 19033)

WITH:

Chairman Bob Filner, U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Network Director Michael Moreland, VA VISN 4
Wilmington, Philadelphia, and Coatesville VA Medical Centers
VA Regional Office & Insurance Center
VA Educational Center
Southeastern Pennsylvania Procurement Technical Assistance Centers
Widener University School of Law Veterans Clinic
and more!

■ *Senior representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs will discuss issues of interest to current and future Veterans and their families. Topics to include: business, education, health care and benefits.*

■ *Caseworkers from the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as other Veteran Service Organizations, will be available for individual concerns and cases.*

All Veterans, servicemen and women, and their families are invited to attend.

THE 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT STANDARD

VISIT MY WEBSITE: WWW.SESTAK.HOUSE.GOV

Congressman Joe Sestak named most productive freshman Member of House

Congressman Joe Sestak is hard at work at home in the 7th Congressional District, regularly meeting with constituents to facilitate dialogue with the citizens of the District, so as to best represent them and their interests in Congress. The Congressman strongly believes accountability and accessibility are the keys to being an effective Representative. For example, he has met privately and publicly with constituents, hosted numerous roundtable events, convened advisory boards, and held multiple summits that address issues ranging from health care and anti-violence to college affordability and small business opportunities for women.

In addition, his office has worked more than 3,000 individual cases for constituents, ranging from helping senior citizens obtain Medicare to working to ensure that Veterans receive their due benefits.

When at work in the nation's Capitol, Congressman Sestak continues to draft and support legislation that bolsters his five pillars of national security: economic security, health security, education security, environment/energy security and defense security.

His work on behalf of his District and nation were recognized recently by the Congressional leadership when he was named the most productive freshman Member of Congress by Majority Leader Steny Hoyer. He has authored seven pieces of legislation that have passed on the House Floor,

in addition to the amendment he added to the Defense Appropriations Bill — which helps local small businesses by mandating that market research for them must be conducted by the Department of Defense prior to awarding contracts of more than \$5 million — that was signed into law by President Bush this winter.



Congressman Sestak, speaking to a constituent at a summit on issues affecting the District, meets regularly with residents to ensure that their concerns are being heard.

Sestak bolsters defense security



Employees at Rajant Corporation in Malvern have worked to create a portable wireless digital broadband system to help our military troops.

With our nation at war on two fronts, our District — home to vital defense manufacturing businesses — plays a vital role in securing the safety of our troops in combat. For instance, the Rajant Corporation in Malvern has developed a Portable Wireless Digital Broadband System with varied applications for our military. With \$3.4 million funding secured by Congressman Sestak, Rajant will further improve the mobility, range, bandwidth and portability of this system. This provides the tactical benefits our nation's troops require, and will aid continuing research and

development fronts in our District that bolsters our District's economic security, and creates needed jobs.

From securing research funding for the nation's defense to authoring the "Bipartisan Resolution for Iraq," Congressman Sestak — who served with the U.S. Navy for 31 years, rising to the rank of a three-star Admiral — is at the forefront of defense security issues that affect our District and our nation.

For instance, while serving as Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that was created in response to 9/11, Congressman Sestak saw the necessity of properly supervised domestic and foreign surveillance and understands the fundamental need to ensure our national security while maintaining our civil rights and civil liberties. That belief is echoed in support of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendment Act, which would allow for modern technologies to protect national security while preserving civil liberties of Americans.

Further, his "Bipartisan Resolution for Iraq" will enhance the national security interests of the United States at home and abroad, provide for the safety of our forces overseas, and ensure stability in Iraq and the Middle East. Though a "date certain" is the best leverage to change the behavior of the Iraqis, we must recognize that when faced with the consequences of a partisan stalemate on resolving the war, we need a compromise. Therefore, we must advocate a redeployment "goal" rather than a "date certain" — as long as we get 10 brigade combat teams out within six months (five more brigade combat teams than President Bush has said) so that our Army can be ready to redeploy to protect our national interests elsewhere.

The resolution highlights the need for diplomatic efforts among the United States, Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Syria, and calls for the redeployment of U.S. Armed Forces serving in Iraq to begin within three months of the date of enactment. Within six months of that date, troop levels are to be 15,000 below the pre-surge level of 130,000 troops.

By bringing this war to a close, the United States can refocus on Afghanistan, the frontline of the War on Terror. Because we did not secure that region properly, the Taliban is thriving again in the ungoverned provinces. We must secure this region, especially its porous borders with Pakistan, now labeled a "safe haven" for Al Qaeda by the CIA.

The United States is in dire need of a comprehensive review of U.S. national security that is not based solely on the war in Iraq. Americans must understand how this war negatively affects our overall security — such as the inability of our military to respond to actions elsewhere in the world, the "safe haven" Al Qaeda has in Pakistan or the \$2-3 trillion cost of this war — from a combined military readiness, diplomatic, economic and intelligence viewpoint. And since the Iraq strategy is harming our overall national security, we must change the strategy to reverse the harm.

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Guaranteeing that students — like those local college students pictured above — have access to the resources they need to attend college contributes to our overall national security.

Education security a top goal for District

In this global era, our District's young people must be prepared to enter the 21st-century workforce. From helping to appropriate funds for Cheyney University's science, engineering and mathematics programs, or Widener University's development of early education programs or Delaware County Community College's small business and workforce development center to voting for the 2008 Higher Education Act, Congressman Sestak has shown with action his belief that educational security enhances our national security.

Key to this educational security is ensuring that our colleges and universities are accessible to all those who are qualified to attend. For those local high school seniors looking to go to college, or adults planning on returning to school, The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 — recently signed into law — provided the single largest increase in college aid since the GI Bill, at no new cost to taxpayers. In addition to increasing Pell Grant Funding for college and reducing college loan interest rates in half, this bill provides tuition assistance for undergrads who agree to teach in public schools and loan forgiveness programs for college graduates who enter public service professions.

THE 7TH CONGRESSIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

6:00 – 9:00 pm

(Registration begins at 5:30 pm)

The Chapel at The Williamson Free Trade School of Mechanical Trade

106 S. New Middletown Road, Media, PA

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR:

- Students
- Parents
- Educators
- Guidance Counselors
- Employers
- Business
- Labor and Civic Leaders

to consider a great challenge facing our region, and nation: How to engage, train and match our young men and women to the current and future workforce needs of the Greater Delaware Valley.

To register: visit www.sestak.house.gov/workforce_signup.shtml

For more information, please contact Mr. Jason Marmon in my District Office at 610-892-8623 or jason.marmon@mail.house.gov

Most recently, the House passed the Higher Education Act, which increases Pell Grant maximums even further, but also ensures that educational institutions are doing all they can to rein in skyrocketing tuition costs. This includes the creation of "Higher Education Price Indices," which reflect the annual change in tuitions and fees at individual colleges. Institutions whose tuition increase exceeds the index are placed on a watch list and mandated to create a task force to examine their costs.

In addition, the 7th Congressional District Higher Education and Workforce Development Advisory Committee and the Excellence in Community Education working group meet regularly at his District office. Each is composed of subject-matter experts focused on curriculum development that will groom middle school students for competence in science, technology, engineering and other majors in college, and will prepare high school and college graduates to compete for high skill and high paying jobs.

New energy standards to help protect local environment

Drivers in the 7th Congressional District are no doubt familiar with Route 422, which winds its way through Chester and Montgomery Counties. Concerned about the adverse environmental effects that heavy traffic along that route creates, the Greater Valley Transportation Management Authority in King of Prussia recently received federal funds for its 422 River Crossing Complex Project which will contribute to freer-flowing traffic, easing the environmental burden on our region.

Congressman Sestak, who successfully secured these funds as part of the federal appropriations process, served as a speaker at the organization's annual conference, where he discussed some solutions to protecting the environment in an area that daily confronts a severely challenged transportation infrastructure system.

The environment and energy issues have become a major focus of the Congressman, who earned a perfect 100 percent marking for his work in Congress on the League of Conservation Voter's 2007 National Environmental Scorecard, the only Pennsylvania Congressman to receive this score.

In addition to protecting our environment, the United States must become more energy independent, because our dependence on foreign oil is not only detrimental to our economy, environment and health, but also negatively impacts our national security. Our dependence on foreign oil funds unstable regions and countries whose governments are not held accountable to their citizens or the international community. This dependence limits our foreign policy and hampers our ability to confront oil-producing countries who may seek to harm the United States. Claiming our energy-independence is critical to ensuring national security.

To address this challenge, the House passed the Energy Efficiency Act of 2007, which raised CAFE standards to 35 miles-per-gallon. In addition, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Act was also recently passed and provides — under a "pay-as-you-go" government — long-term incentives to expand production of homegrown fuels, encourages manufacturers to build appliances that push the boundaries of efficiency, supports the deployment of renewable energy, helps working families purchase energy efficient appliances, and provides energy production tax credits for the use of solar panels, small wind turbines and geothermal heat pumps.



Preserving open space in Chester County, such as the East Goshen Township Wetland Walk pictured above, not only protects our environment but also leads to our energy independence.

Health care for nation's children a top priority

Students from Worrall Elementary School, who have been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome — a developmental disorder on the autism spectrum — lobbied questions at Congressman Sestak (who is a member of the Congressional Autism Caucus), as part of their Action 7 newscast project.

An estimated 1.77 million American families are affected by autism spectrum disorders, and we must work towards increasing awareness, designating funding for research and providing assistance to families of children with autism. For instance, Congressman Sestak is a cosponsor of the Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act which, among many provisions, requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a multi-year demonstration grant program for states to provide evidence-based autism treatments, interventions and services.

Representative Sestak entered Congress because of concerns about health care and, as such, has continued to vote for increased funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), which would expand the current program to cover 3.4 million more American children. He also



Congressman Sestak meets with students from Worrall Elementary School who utilized the visit to practice their reporting skills.

introduced the Conquer Childhood Cancer Act to encourage and expand support for biomedical research programs for childhood cancer and establish a population-based childhood cancer database.

In addition to voting for more funding for public health activities and fighting to obtain more affordable medication prices for Medicare beneficiaries, his office has paid particular attention to the issue of Veterans' health care. He successfully passed two amendments to the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act, which will improve mental health care for our wounded soldiers as well as our Veterans. The first highlights the fact that mental health care is an essential component to the medical services offered to our Veterans and the members of our Armed Services by clarifying that "medical care" includes mental health care services. The second requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to help prevent Post-Traumatic Stress

Disorder and other stress-related psychopathologies from developing in our military service members. Both amendments passed with unanimous support.

In the 7th District, his office has also held three health care summits to address the needs of his constituents for affordable, quality health care, mental health support and Veterans' health care.

Bolstering economy takes center stage at local Business Procurement Summit

In order to facilitate professional links between small and large businesses in our region, some 100 local small manufacturers met with Boeing officials in late March to discuss contracting agreements. Previously, Boeing often sent job bids that weren't won by the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers Union to regions outside of our own. After a Business Procurement Summit in December and subsequent discussions with Congressman Sestak, Boeing agreed to offer local businesses the first bid on crucial contracts. This is an economic win-win for the District, as it keeps business and salaries at home, while helping Boeing fulfill its manufacturing needs with local, quality products.

We must confront the challenges of the present uncertain economic climate head-on, and make the small businesses of this region a special focus. In the past year, his office has hosted four economic summits — which brought key Congressional leaders, including Chairman John Murtha and Chairman Ike Skelton, to the District — to provide access to resources and contracts that allow small business owners to grow their companies and find new sources of funding through federal, state and private grants. These efforts have produced tangible results, as local companies have earned important federal contracts.

As Vice Chair of the House Small Business Committee, the Congressman has authored legislation that focuses on the economic security of the District and the nation. He sponsored an amendment that was added to the Defense Authorization Bill requiring market research to be conducted by the Department of Defense on small businesses' ability to do the work prior to awarding contracts of more than \$5 million dollars. Another one of his amendments addresses the fact that in our District, small businesses have historically received only 6.7 percent of federal contracts that come into the



Congressman Sestak was joined by Chairman John Murtha at the 7th Congressional District Business Procurement Summit, where more than 400 business men and women gathered to learn more about government and private procurement.

District — despite a federal goal of 23 percent. This legislation stops the government from unfairly "bundling" small contracts into "mega-contracts," which makes it harder for small business to compete. Another piece of legislation provides grants and entrepreneurial tools for critical management and technical assistance to small business owners. Still another provides trade assistance to small businesses to increase their exports.

High on the list of priorities is protecting the taxpayers of this District, which is accomplished by the economic stimulus package as well as the Budget Resolution of 2009, which rejects the President's budget funding cuts to our region — which reduced \$40 million from firefighters grants and nearly \$30 million from the Federal Aid Highways Program. The Budget Resolution of 2009 also provides middle-income tax relief under a pay-as-you-go system via an extension of marriage penalty relief, an extension of the 10 percent individual income tax bracket and an extension of the child tax credit.