

CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK

MID-YEAR REPORT



THE FIRST 180 DAYS...

CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS PRIORITIES
IN THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET (MARCH 29, 2007) - *PICTURED ABOVE*

THE ISSUES THAT YOU SAID MATTER MOST TO YOU... THE FOUR PILLARS OF NATIONAL SECURITY

EDUCATION SECURITY

“The future goals of our nation and our citizens are only achievable through universal access to high quality education. Every American must be given the opportunity to realize his or her full educational potential. I support efforts for greater transparency, accountability, early childhood education, affordable access to college, and attracting and rewarding quality teachers.” — Congressman Joe Sestak, February 15, 2006

HEALTH SECURITY

“Health security is not just an individual's responsibility but is critical for America's collective prosperity and broader national security. To meet the challenges of the future, we need healthy, educated Americans. Our collective responsibility is to ensure a health care system which covers all of us, uses competition and performance standards to discipline costs, shares responsibility, and rewards care givers for their quality of care.” — Congressman Joe Sestak, April 4, 2006

ECONOMIC SECURITY

“The long term prosperity of our economy must be our number one priority simply because it makes possible what we most want: to raise our children well, to buy a home, to pay for college, to save for retirement, and to live a healthy life within a secure nation. In order to achieve these goals, we need to regain the sure footing of sound fiscal and budget practices, enact tax policies that help the middle and lower income workers; and support trade that protects worker and environmental rights while spurring productivity.” — Congressman Joe Sestak, June 12, 2006

DEFENSE SECURITY

“Our military is a national treasure that should not be used recklessly, nor should it be hoarded like miser's gold. It is a vital resource if we are to continue to be a force for peace and prosperity in the world, but the war in Iraq is a tragic misadventure. I have always supported - and will continue to support - a date certain to redeploy our troops, which will allow us to address our other security concerns that have been negatively impacted abroad and at home by our involvement in Iraq. It will also allow us to refocus our resources and help transform our military and its core missions and services for the new challenges of our increasingly global world.” — Congressman Joe Sestak, September 24, 2006

From the Desk of CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK



Dear Neighbor,

As your new Congressman, I want to provide you with regular updates on key issues affecting our district. This first update shows how I am working in Congress to accomplish our goals, and in the coming weeks I will be sending you regular updates to keep you informed.

National security begins at home, in the health, education, and economic security of our people. Those three pillars, along with the pillar of defense security, give us national security. In Congress, I serve on the committees that best represent these priorities: the Armed Services Committee; the Committee on Education and Labor; the Committee on Small Business, where I serve as vice-chairman; and the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions as well as the Subcommittee on Healthcare, Regulations, and Trade.

Government works best when representatives and constituents work together to identify problems and create constructive solutions. As your Congressman, I am committed to making this process a reality for our district, which is why over the past months I have held a series of summits on issues facing us.

I came to Congress to be an agent for change. Therefore inside this brochure, you will see how I listened to you at the summits on the four pillars of national security, and the results that I have secured in a number of pieces of legislation I initiated – as well as others I have acted on – in Congress. In addition, you will read about some of the local issues I am working to address. This brochure is not all inclusive but rather is intended to give you an outline of my approach as your Representative and some of the results that I have secured to benefit you.

It is my honor to represent you in Washington, and my first priority is to be accessible to you. My Congressional Office belongs to you, and my staff and I are here to serve you in any way possible. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions and suggestions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Sestak".

U.S. Congressman, 7th District of Pennsylvania

THE ISSUES THAT YOU SAID MATTER MOST TO YOU... THE FOUR PILLARS OF NATIONAL SECURITY

FOUGHT TO SERVE ON THE KEY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES THAT MIRROR THE FOUR PILLARS

ADDRESSING CRITICAL, LOCAL ISSUES

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EDUCATION SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

Improving education from preschool through high school to higher education and continuing education, through new federal programs and legislative initiatives.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Ensuring access to early education, from pre-k through the high school level.

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Expanding access to affordable health insurance in small businesses.

WORKFORCE: SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Strengthening health care including employee health benefits through workforce initiatives.

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ECONOMIC SECURITY

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Supporting small businesses through open access to loans, credit and capital; and tax relief.

WORKFORCE: EDUCATION AND LABOR COMMITTEE

Creating jobs, protecting pensions, and expanding healthcare for workers.

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DEFENSE SECURITY

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Strengthening our security by transforming the operations of the Department of Defense as well as *its core competencies, missions and services.*

- Subcommittee on Seapower and Expeditionary Forces
- Subcommittee on Air and Land Forces
- Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

FIXING THE PROBLEM OF THE FAA FLIGHT REDESIGN PLAN

This is my Number One local issue. As a result of the following efforts, we now have the Government Accounting Office (GAO) - watchdog of the U.S. Government - investigating the concerns we raised that noise mitigation, air emissions, and other environmental impacts have not been adequately addressed. We need continued pressure at the local, state, and federal levels to help halt this proposal. That is why I will continue to work with everyone - including you as an important part - on a plan that will tackle this issue from all sides. Our efforts:

EXPERT ADVISORY BOARD – Established an Expert Advisory Board to assess, quantify and report the negative impacts of the FAA's proposal and develop a multi-part solutions plan.

MET WITH KEY DECISION-MAKERS – Met with FAA Administrator Marion Blakey, Transportation Committee Chairman James Oberstar, and Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Jerry Costello to relay the negative impacts of the FAA's proposal on our district and to push for its end.

FUTURE: LEGISLATION, INVESTIGATION, AND LITIGATION – Along with Congressman Rob Andrews, whose district is also impacted by the proposal, I pushed the GAO - the U.S. government's investigative watchdog - to investigate the FAA's proposed airspace redesign due to concerns that noise mitigation, air emissions, and other environmental impacts have not been adequately addressed. I will also pursue legislation with Congressman Andrews to delay or stop the process until community concerns are fully addressed, and will work with the Delaware County Council on litigation as an option as necessary to stop the airspace redesign proposal.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & VITALIZATION

Over the past 3 years, our district has lost 600 small businesses and 1 in 5 manufacturing establishments. To reverse this trend, I am working to invest in small businesses through better incentives, increased opportunities, and an educated and trained workforce (see economic and education summits inside).

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Our communities face a serious flooding threat from improper watershed management, such as the 2004 flood which damaged about 500 houses and caused about \$4 million in damage. I toured our municipalities to see the impacts of the 2004 floods in our region, including the high water mark at the top of the Exxon sign in Upper Darby, and to discern how best to address the problem. I am committed to bringing municipalities and public officials together to establish a comprehensive solution. Our results:

MET WITH WATERSHED ORGANIZATIONS TO DISCUSS CONSERVATION PLANS to ensure a remedy in one area does not adversely impact downstream or upstream watersheds.

MET WITH ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED REVIEW and to work on a comprehensive solution on flooding and watershed management.

SECURING FUNDING FOR A STUDY to identify the problems, needs and opportunities regarding water resources in the study area, and begin a watershed improvement process.

VIOLENCE

The growing violence that we witness in our region and surrounding communities are grim reminders that we must act to address issues pertaining to violence in our schools and communities. I am committed to working on proposals that will help prevent violence, through education, economic development and other opportunities, but will also penalize those who do commit these crimes.

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EDUCATION SECURITY

FEBRUARY 26 — DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT: Summit with Chairman George Miller of the Education and Labor Committee to discuss Early Childhood through Secondary Education Delaware County Intermediate Unit.

MARCH 16 — WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY: Summit with Higher Education Subcommittee Chairman Rubén Hinojosa to discuss advanced workforce training.

MAY 14 — RADNOR HIGH SCHOOL: Summit with Early Childhood and Secondary Education Subcommittee Chairman Dale Kildee to discuss No Child Left Behind.

3 SUMMITS

HEALTH SECURITY

"Health security is not just an individual's responsibility but is critical for America's collective prosperity and broader national security. To meet the challenges of the future, we need healthy, educated Americans. Our collective responsibility is to ensure a health care system which covers all of us, uses competition and performance standards to discipline costs, shares responsibility, and rewards care givers for their quality of care." — Congressman Joe Sestak, April 4, 2006

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HEALTH SECURITY

FEBRUARY 27 — ELWYN: Summit with Congressman Patrick Kennedy, Chairman of the Mental Health Caucus to discuss Mental Health parity.

JUNE 25 — WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY: Summit on Health Security to discuss affordability, accessibility, and quality of health care.

2 SUMMITS

ECONOMIC SECURITY

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I am working on a 'date certain' to redeploy our troops from Iraq to enhance our security.

February 8 — Introduced legislation requiring all U.S. Armed Forces serving in Iraq to be redeployed no later than December 31, 2007 (H.R. 960).

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March 23 — Voted for H.R. 1591, the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act, which included a date certain for redeploying out of Iraq.

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JOE DISCUSSES THE IMPORTANCE OF READING TO SCHOOL CHILDREN AT AN EVENT HONORING PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (MARCH 25, 2007).

"Americans should feel safe. They should feel at peace at home and abroad. They should feel financially secure. They should believe their children are being properly schooled. And they should have access to quality health care that affords them longer, better lives.

A government that doesn't aim to achieve these pillars of security is a government that has failed its citizenry."

— CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK

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DELIVERED RESULTS ON THE FOUR PILLARS OF NATIONAL SECURITY

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- Cut Student Loan interest rates in half from 6.8% to 3.4%
- Provided an additional \$8 billion for education
- Expanded Head Start to provide 10,000 more children access to Head Start services
- Provided student loan forgiveness for Head Start teachers
- Increased the maximum Pell Grant for college to \$5,200 over the next five years
- Authorized a year-round Pell program for students, and also expanding eligibility for the program

- Provided complete loan forgiveness for first responders with 10 years of public service
- Pushing to fully-fund No Child Left Behind and IDEA education programs
- Cleaned up the relationships between student lenders and colleges
- Provided up-front pre-paid tuition assistance for students who commit to teaching a high-need subject in a high-need school for four years
- Increased scholarships for students majoring in science and math fields
- Established awards to outstanding early-career researchers
- Streamlined the Federal Student Financial Aid process

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- Expanded federal funding for life-saving embryonic stem cell research
- Cut costs to Medicare prescription drugs through direct negotiation by U.S. government
- Provided grants to improve access to, and development of, trauma care systems
- Expanded research to fight cancer, including childhood cancer
- Passed legislation to improve mental health care for our wounded soldiers
- Called on the Environmental Protection Agency to rectify its regulations on TCE emissions, which has been linked to severe forms of cancer

- Reduced the number of uninsured children across the country by providing up to \$50 billion for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Expanding research to fight breast cancer and to study environmental factors
- Pushing for parity in the treatment of mental health
- Created an ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) Registry to better study the incidence and prevalence of ALS
- Funded research on the health impacts of methamphetamine labs on children and first-responders
- Improved access to kidney organ donations
- Expanded research for veterans' traumatic brain injuries through new research centers

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- Increased the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25
- Enacted tax relief for small businesses and expanded access to start-up capital
- Drafted and passed business entrepreneurial legislation assisting small businesses through management and technical assistance
- Ensured small businesses have greater access to federal government contracting opportunities, including all defense contracts over \$1 million
- Supported tax relief that benefits our families by extending the child tax credit, 10 percent bracket, and marriage penalty relief
- Provided taxpayers with stronger protections from identity theft and tax fraud

- Provided immediate Alternative Minimum Tax relief, preventing more than 20 million middle-class taxpayers from being hit by this stealth tax
- Addressing discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex
- Empowered shareholders to vote on their company's executive compensation practices
- Authorized \$21 billion in funding over three years for the National Science Foundation, including funding for math and science education
- Fully reauthorized the National Institutes of Standards and Technology for the first time in more than 15 years — an organization that has enabled breakthrough technologies and improved our safety and quality of life
- Created two new Veteran Business Outreach Centers to help veterans pursue or resume business activities after they leave service
- Expanded Women's Business Centers and provided additional assistance for outreach in low-income areas

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DEFENSE SECURITY

- Introduced legislation calling for the redeployment of our troops out of Iraq by 12/31/07
- Implemented the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission
- Voted against the President's call for Troop Escalation in Iraq
- Voted for a date certain for redeploying out of Iraq, including H.R. 2237
- Provided a 3.5% across-the-board pay raise for all service members
- Supported our veterans through an additional \$12 billion in funding for veterans programs
- Provided \$1.2 billion for personal body armor and \$4.1 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicles, which will reduce the casualties in vehicles by as much as 80%
- Authorized the largest amount of funding in history for 16 U.S. intelligence agencies and intelligence-related activities for the U.S. government

- Supported funding for an additional 50,000 police officers on the streets over the next six years, improving the security of railroads, public transportation, and over-the-road buses
- Increased funding for homeland security to \$33.7 billion supporting first responders, increased contractor accountability, and strengthened and streamlined the Department of Homeland Security
- Enacted seven bills that expand veterans' health care and benefits, including measures pertaining to traumatic brain injuries and rehabilitation and expanded critical mental health outreach programs
- Prohibited increases in military and retiree health care and pharmacy user fees
- National Security FIRST Act: Implements changes to the CFIUS (security) review process in response to the Dubai ports scandal, which will strengthen national security
- Improved compensation benefits for veterans with impairment of vision involving both eyes
- Provided historic increases in veterans' health and benefits programs totaling more than \$12 billion

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


M.C.
Prsrt Std

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

CONGRESSMAN JOE SESTAK: HERE FOR YOU!

CONGRESSMAN SESTAK'S OFFICE CAN HELP WITH A HOST OF ISSUES, INCLUDING:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

- Social Security and Medicare benefits
- Immigration and Naturalization services
- Veterans' benefits
- Grants and Federal funding for local projects
- Passport/Visa applications
- Military Service Issues
 - Veteran's History Project
- Federal Income Taxes
- Student Financial Aid
- Civil Service and Retirement benefits
- Civil Rights issues

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

- Information on bills and issues before Congress
- Copies of bills and other government documents
- Research information from the Library of Congress

VISITOR AND OTHER SERVICES

- Group tours for school classes and community organizations
- White House and U.S. Capitol tours
- American flags flown over the Capitol
- U.S. Service Academy nominations
- Student internships (in the Pennsylvania and Washington offices)

PLEASE CONTACT CONGRESSMAN SESTAK:

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