

Frankfort Report...

By **Jared Carpenter**
State Senator

This session of the General Assembly is halfway over. Many of the priority bills we have passed in the Senate now await action in the House. There are several outstanding issues in the Senate that we continue to work on in our remaining time in Frankfort.



As I have said before, defending the Second Amendment is very important to me. I am pleased SB 129, which prohibits the enforcement of unconstitutional federal bans or restrictions on ownership of semi-automatic firearms or gun registration measures in Kentucky, passed out of committee. This measure, which I was proud to introduce, now goes to the Senate floor.

The United States Supreme Court, as recently as 2010, has upheld that the Second Amendment protects individuals' right to keep and bear arms. Actions by the federal government to attack this right would not be in accordance with the Constitution. That is why SB 129 is so important- it protects Kentuckians' right

to gun ownership from overreaching federal actions. It will also send a strong message to Washington that our guns are not up for grabs.

I was thrilled to have RCHS UNITE members Hannah Eaton, Sean Watkins, and Avery T. Bradshaw in Frankfort last week. Their testimonies about the effects of the drug epidemic that were aired on CNN were truly moving. We honored them, along with UNITE adviser Dusty McClure, on the Senate floor.

Recently, an overwhelming number of deaths have been resulting in Kentucky from heroin overdoses. That is why I co-sponsored Senate Bill 6. The bill allows dealers of highly-addictive Schedule I drugs such as heroin, meth, and cocaine to be charged with criminal homicide in the event of a drug-overdose death, even if they didn't sell the drug directly to the deceased. SB 6 passed the Senate and now awaits action in the House.

The Senate passed House Bill 7, a bill authorizing university bonding projects. Universities will use their own bonds at no cost to Kentucky's General Fund to renovate or build 11

critically-needed buildings. These creative building proposals not only enhance the quality of higher education in our state but also will be providing needed construction jobs. I congratulate the universities for defining a specific project list and developing a business plan with a dedicated revenue stream. It is the right approach especially after the Senate added language that these projects could not be subsidized with tuition increases. Incidentally, HB7 will be the first bill to pass both chambers.

Increasing access to non-emergency medical transportation for our most vulnerable is the intent of Senate Bill 112. This bill will increase competition among providers which hopefully will bring the costs down for those who need the service. It would also represent a significant savings to taxpayers to coordinate transportation as well because Medicaid dollars are used.

Senate Bill 39 and Senate Bill 40 both passed the Senate. SB 39 states that any expansion of Medicaid eligibility under President Obama's Affordable Care Act must be approved by the General Assembly. Similarly, SB 40 directs that the General Assembly must approve any state-run health benefit exchanges under the Affordable Care Act. I believe that policies that have such state-wide impact and are attached to such great costs should simply not be decided by one individual without the benefit of open, transparent debate. While I have my own feelings about the value of expanding government services without having a way to pay for them, this is not about me or my opinion. This is about giving true deliberation to policies that will dramatically affect how your government operates and costs and including as many people as possible in that decision. The Governor was never supposed to have a blank check to do whatever he wants.

The Senate also passed bills directed at gifted students as well as those who are struggling in the traditional academic environment. Senate Bill 109 allows high-school students who are taking Advanced Placement or similar certified college credit classes to access their KEES funds early in order to pay for them. Senate Bill 97 allows local school districts to adopt a policy requiring students to stay in school until age 18, or graduation whichever comes first, with the understanding that they would have to offer an approved alternative education program that would help meet the needs of students most likely to drop out. Local districts are best equipped to understand what kind of supports they have or can offer and that decision should not belong to a Frankfort bureaucrat. With this bill, educators are better prepared and at-risk students do not distract from the traditional educational process.

Even though time is running out on this session, time is never running out on you voicing your opinion. There are several ways to contact me: my toll-free number is 1-800-372-7181 and online, I and the work of the Legislature, can be accessed via www.lrc.ky.gov



85% of all clothing purchased in the USA ends up in our landfills instead of being recycled

Clean out your closet and donate all of your unwanted items to the Grateful Threadz used clothing store. Not only will you get a tax receipt for your donation but if you donate your items between March 1st and April 30th you could win a prize.

Grateful Treadz Used Clothing Store, 3095 Richmond Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456, (606)256-3035 ext. 2. Donations can be dropped off during our normal business hours: M-F 9:00am – 4:30pm.

Don't drive to Berea, Richmond, or London instead donate your items at home.



The Rockcastle Kiwanis club was pleased to have Shannon Franklin, a member of the Rockcastle Sheriff's Department, as its luncheon speaker Thursday, February 14th. Shannon talked about the Carry Concealed Deadly Weapon License program in which he is a certified instructor. He mentioned the increasing number of applications for the permit. The course is a one day program covering the law, safety procedures, marksmanship fundamentals, and firing range qualification. Shown in the above photo from left are: Glenda Smith, Program Chairperson; Shannon Franklin; Jim Snyder-member; and Jamie Lear-member. Submitted by: Jim Snyder, Rockcastle Kiwanis



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Patient Safety WORKSHOP

Monday, March 18, 2013

5:30 p.m. • Rockcastle Regional Wellness Center

Free meal provided

This workshop will focus on preventing re-admission to the hospital.

Guest speaker:

Dr. Karen Saylor

Educational Opportunities:

Dietitian • Physical Therapy • Home Health • Nurse
Respiratory Therapy • Pharmacy • Clinic Staff

Keeping you safe - Keeping you out of the hospital

Contact Amanda Bradley at 256-7780 to sign up or for more information. Please call by Friday, March 15.



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Clarissa Hubbard and Jimmy Gay are proud to announce the birth of their son, Xavier Cecil Gay, born January



18, 2013 at Lake Cumberland Regional Hospital in Somerset. He weighed 7 lbs. 3/4 ozs. and was 20 inches long. Grandparents are Brenda Gay and the late Billy Gay of Mt. Vernon, Carolyn Hubbard and the late Larry Hubbard of Livingston and Katherine Johnson and Tommy Shaw of Brodhead. Great grandparents are Bernice and Floyd Lovell of Mt. Vernon, Hiram Johnson of Mt. Vernon, Glessie Hubbard of Livingston. Siblings are Olivia Robinson of Livingston, Braxton Gay of Roundstone, Brook, Emilee and Peyton Gay of Ohio.

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