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Summer, 2006

NEWS FROM THE 42ND DISTRICT

Volume 4, Issue 2

Assemblyman's Message

Welcome to "News From The 42nd District," my quarterly eNewsletter designed to help keep you informed of what's happening in the State Capitol and the 42nd District. The 2005-2006 Legislative Session is in its final throes, and I wanted to update you on the successes we've had during the last 3 months. I hope you enjoy and find the information in this newsletter helpful and interesting!

Community Calendar

July, 2006
August, 2006
September, 2006

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN PAUL KORETZ SUBMITS IMPEACHMENT RESOLUTION

On Friday, April 21, I introduced amendments to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 39, thereby calling for the investigations and possible impeachment hearings of President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard Cheney. This resolution relies on Section 603 of Thomas Jefferson's Manual of the Rules of the United States House of Representatives, which allows federal impeachment proceedings to be initiated by joint resolution of a state legislature. Although federal impeachment proceedings against a sitting President have never before been prompted by such state legislative action, California and two other states, Illinois and Vermont, are currently considering the call for impeachment. AJR 39, uniquely, also asks for the impeachment of Vice President Cheney, and not just President Bush.

My resolution bases the call for investigation and impeachment upon many of the Bush Administration's transgressions, including:

- intentionally misleading the Congress and the American people regarding the threat from Iraq in order to justify an unnecessary war that has cost billions of dollars and thousands of lives and casualties;
- Conspiring to torture prisoners in violation of the "Federal Torture Act" and indicating intent to continue such actions; and,
- Spying on American citizens in violation of the 1978 Foreign Agency Surveillance Act. **(Cont'd on Last Page)**

Please join us at The Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn on July 26th from 6pm to 8pm · 4222 Vineland (between Ventura & Moorpark) · Parking is FREE
 •Please call 310-285-5490 to RSVP.



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DISTRICT EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

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I hope my resolution will help promote a public dialogue about the questionable activities and errant judgment of the President and Vice President. At both the state and national levels, we will be paying for the Bush Administration's illegal actions and terrible lack of judgment and competence for decades – not only in the billions of dollars wasted on the war, but in the worldwide loss of respect for America and Americans.

I'm especially concerned that we send a strong message to Washington: we need to seek accountability for any wrongs already committed, but we also have to discourage the undertaking of even deadlier misdeeds, such as the use of nuclear weapons in other dubious wars. There seem to be no bounds to the Bush/Cheney administration's willingness to ignore the Constitution and world opinion—we can't afford to wait for the next disaster and hope that we can survive it.

Since I introduced AJR 39, there's been some progress – the Assembly Rules Committee voted 4-3 to put the amendments into print and have the Committee consider it further, and that was a step in the right direction. Furthermore, we've picked up a joint author, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), and six co-authors: Assemblymembers Rudy Bermudez (D-Norwalk), Ron Calderon (D-Montebello), Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), Loni Hancock (D-Berkeley), Jerome Horton (D-Inglewood) and Mark Ridley-Thomas (D-Los Angeles).

We've also heard from thousands of Californians in favor of AJR 39. The American public in general is increasingly angry and concerned about the misdeeds and failures of the Bush administration. We need accountability, and we need dramatic change – and right now, the impeachment process seems to be the most appropriate way, and the only avenue, to achieve such crucial goals.

However, for AJR 39 to reach Congress, it must be voted out of Assembly Rules Committee, and then passed by both the State Assembly and State Senate. The governor has no say one way or the other, and no veto power, since this is a Resolution and not a Bill.

The fate of AJR 39 is uncertain – it could languish in committee, or suddenly come to a vote – and if it passes and gets sent to the U.S. Congress, it will have a monumental impact. Thousands of people have already contacted legislative offices in support of AJR 39, which helps create important momentum for the resolution. Whatever happens, I'm glad that people who are otherwise very worried and angry about the present state of this nation have had another opportunity to express their views and be involved. For more information, check www.impeachca.com.

If you want AJR 39 to proceed, now's a great time to contact State Legislators, including the Assembly Speaker, to ask that AJR 39 be sent out of committee to the floor of the Assembly for a vote. Your voice on this momentous issue can make a real difference!

Cont'd from Page 5 – Burn Center Bill

rate does not adequately cover the cost of treating severely burned patients, leaving the burn centers to absorb much of the costs.

Under the current rate schedule, these burn centers (including our very own Grossman Burn Center at the Sherman Oaks Hospital) have seen reimbursement payments well below costs, sometimes by hundreds of thousands of dollars per case, jeopardizing the ability of these centers to remain open.

The situation continues to deteriorate. This past March, the hospital in San Pablo suspended its burn center license and shut the center down. We are now down to only 12 burn centers in the entire state.

The typical patients being treated for severe burns in workers' compensation cases are firefighters and employees of power and utility companies. These are patients in their prime productive years who suffer catastrophic burns and need intense treatment and experience long and costly recoveries before they can return to work.

My bill from last year, AB 935, was unfortunately held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. However, this year's bill – AB 2942 – passed the Assembly floor on May 31st with overwhelming bipartisan support on a 67-11 vote and is now on its way to the State Senate.

AB 2942 is sponsored by the California Hospital Association, and is supported by a diverse coalition of labor organizations, firefighters, and local business groups like the Sherman Oaks Chamber of Commerce and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA).

I am optimistic that this issue can be resolved this year, either through a broader workers' compensation reform agreement or through AB 2942. While this issue represents only a small fraction of the overall workers' compensation system, it is a critically important one nonetheless. None of us should get “burned” by a problem that can, should and must be fixed.

Cont'd from Page 4 – Koretz Receives Recognitions

from the California Conference of Local AIDS Directors. Koretz' work in this area is well documented, from his attempts to allow non-profit and public health care agencies to distribute condoms in state prisons (AB 1677) to piloting a program to expand Medi-Cal to the non-disabled HIV population (AB 2197). Koretz was deeply touched by the recognition, commenting that he will “continue to fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic,” something he has been fighting since his tenure on the West Hollywood City Council.

Koretz was also honored by Equality California for his “Aye” vote on AB 849, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, and also received recognition by the Hepatitis C Task Force for L.A. County; Cure FD (FD is a terrible disease, Familial Dysautonomia), and by PAW-PAC, an animal welfare organization, for his 100% pro-animal voting record.