

Keystone Connection

Rick Santorum

United States Senator, Pennsylvania

Dear Friends,

As we close out the winter of 2006, a year that has gotten off to a roaring start, I thought I'd touch base with you and give you an idea of some of the things I've been working on as your United States Senator. Within this newsletter, you will find information on long-term care, the budget, sportsmen's rights, and protecting our miners.

These are just a few issues of interest to Pennsylvanians--there are many others, such as health care, homeland security, veterans' services, and the upcoming farm bill. As these issues move to the forefront of debate in Congress, I will do my best to keep you informed.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me or visit my website, <http://santorum.senate.gov>, and enjoy the newsletter!

Best Wishes,



Pennsylvania is home to one of the largest senior populations in the nation, and as such, the issues that affect seniors have an extremely large impact on our state. Last fall, I began traveling across Pennsylvania **discussing the future of long-term care** in America. Our ability to provide first rate long-term care hits home for thousands of Pennsylvanians--both those who require such services and those who provide them, whether they be professionals caring for patients or family members caring for a loved one. So I met with patients and families, providers and administrators and many others, all who were generous with their time and their ideas on how we can work together to deliver the best long-term care possible for our fellow Pennsylvanians.



These meetings were extremely valuable, and I learned much about the problems we currently face and how we can best solve them. Based on the feedback I received from people like you, last month I introduced the **Aging with Respect and Dignity Act**.

The primary function of this bill is to encourage Americans to better plan for their long-term care needs, so that if these services become necessary, they are prepared. It works to keep families together during difficult times. And through foresight and planning, we can transfer the financial burden away from Medicaid, thus freeing resources to better serve those in greatest need.

I look forward to again traveling throughout Pennsylvania, this time talking about **my legislation** and how it can help you and your family better plan for the future. I hope to see you out there, as I continue to travel to all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties every year.

Mine Safety

As we watched the tragic loss of life at the Sago Mine in West Virginia, Americans everywhere became acutely aware of the dangers that our miners face every day. My grandfather, a Pennsylvania coal miner for thirty years, faced these dangers throughout his working life, and I feel very privileged that CONSOL Energy Company Inc. afforded me the chance to **tour their Washington, PA coal mine** on February 21st.



My day at the mine included a chance to meet with miners and their supervisors, as well as travel deep into the mountain to see the working environment and safety precautions firsthand. No amount of briefing or research can equal the value of seeing that environment with my own eyes. The loss of one more miner is one too many, and providing our miners with the protection they need and deserve is at the top of my priority list.

Sportsmen Show

Every year for more than half a century, Harrisburg has played host to the Eastern Sports and Outdoors Show, the largest consumer event of its kind in North America. This event, which draws outdoor enthusiasts from across the nation, is a wonderful opportunity to get in touch with an integral part of Pennsylvania's heritage.

The event also gave me a chance to unveil legislation I recently introduced--the **Sportsmen's Privacy Protection Act**. Current law in Pennsylvania requires that those looking to obtain a hunting or fishing license must provide their Social Security number. But often, unfortunately, these numbers are not kept as securely as they should be. In an era of rampant identity theft, this is a risk that sportsmen shouldn't have to take. My legislation would remove this requirement, and the privacy concerns that come with it.



Amtrak Funding

Did you know?

Philadelphia's 30th Street Station is the second busiest Amtrak Station in the country, providing service to over 3.7 million passengers in 2005. Located in the center of the most traveled stretch of railroad in America, Pennsylvania has long benefited from the railway's presence. Amtrak currently employs over 3,000 Pennsylvanians and countless more receive economic benefit from the easy access to cities like Boston, New York, and Washington, DC.

Amtrak is simply too important to Pennsylvania to allow it to fall into bankruptcy, yet President Bush has consistently attempted to cut Amtrak's federal funding and allow Americans to lose this vital service. Just as I did last year, I will fight the President on this point. Unless **Amtrak is funded at a level adequate** to keep it serving Pennsylvania, his budget will not have my support.

