



Congressman **Jim Sensenbrenner**

News From Congress

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Wisconsin Internet Access Tax To End

On November 1, 2006, the people of Wisconsin will have one less tax to pay when the Internet access tax is eliminated.

After working fervently on this issue, I was finally able to reach an agreement with the Senate on a bill that exempts Wisconsinites from having to pay taxes when they log on to the Internet. I pushed to eliminate this tax immediately, but some Senators, led by Senator Herb Kohl, objected and insisted that the taxation continue until November 1, 2006.

Currently, Wisconsin applies a 5% sales tax on Internet access, with up to an additional half-percent tax in many localities. Most people in America don't pay a tax to log onto the Internet because, in 1998, Congress passed a bill which prevented states from levying new taxes on Internet access. This law was supposed to help all Americans, particularly low-income individuals and families, by stopping states from levying yet another onerous tax upon their residents.

But before the 1998 moratorium, some states were already collecting Internet access taxes. To allow them time to cut spending or find alternative revenue sources, a number of these states, including Wisconsin, were given an exemption under the bill's "grandfather" provision. However, some states have taken advantage of this

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Driver's Licenses For Illegal Aliens?

Wisconsin is one of about ten states that issue drivers' licenses to illegal aliens. Considering that the 19 hijackers responsible for the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, had multiple drivers' licenses in their possession, the issuance of drivers' licenses is a security issue that must be addressed.

Whether a person wants to board a plane or buy cigarettes, drivers' licenses serve many different purposes. Over the past couple of months, I raised this issue to the national forefront as Congress deliberated over the 9/11 Intelligence Reform bill. Based on the work of the 9/11 Commission, which took 20 months to complete its investigation into the events of September 11, the Intelligence Reform bill was signed into law by President Bush in December.

I voted against it.

This bill has some serious flaws in it as a result of the Senate's unwillingness to compromise. Notably, it lacks any provision that would stop states from issuing drivers' licenses to illegal aliens, even though the 9/11 Commission's report clearly states, "The federal government should set standards for the issuance of birth certificates and sources of identification, such as drivers licenses. Fraud in identification documents is no longer just a problem of theft."

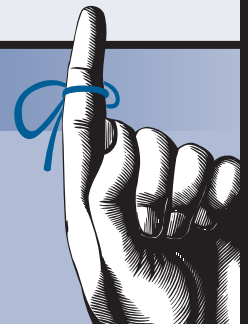
As a member of the House-Senate Conference Committee on the Intelligence Reform bill, my efforts to include such a

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Reminder...

Office Hours & Town Hall Meetings

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Office Hours

Monday, January 24

8:30am Helenville Fire Hall
9:15am Sullivan Village Hall
10:00am Palmyra Village Hall
11:00am Dousman Village Hall
11:45am Genesee Town Hall
12:30pm Wales Village Hall
2:00pm Nashotah Village Hall
2:45pm Merton Town Hall
3:30pm Merton Village Hall
4:15pm Pewaukee Village Hall

Monday, January 31

9:00am Newburg Village Hall
9:45am Fredonia Village Hall
10:30am Belgium Village Hall
11:15am Saukville Village Hall
1:30pm River Hills Village Hall
2:15pm Fox Point Village Hall
3:00pm Bayside Village Hall

Friday, February 11

11:00am Butler Village Hall
11:45am Lannon Village Hall
1:30pm Sussex Village Hall
2:30pm Jackson Village Hall
3:15pm Addison Town Hall
4:00pm Kewaskum Village Hall

Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours provide me the chance to hear your views on the issues before Congress or to help you with problems you may be experiencing in dealing with a federal agency. I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting nearest your home. Please contact my district office if you require special accommodations to attend.

Town Hall Meetings

Sunday, January 23

7:00pm West Bend City Hall

Sunday, January 30

7:00pm Oconomowoc City Hall

Saturday, February 12

9:00am Johnson Creek Village Hall

Sunday, February 13

7:00pm Port Washington Police Department

Saturday, March 12

9:00am Wauwatosa Public Library

Sunday, March 13

7:00pm Shorewood Village Hall

Monday, January 24

7:00pm Whitefish Bay Village Hall

Monday, January 31

7:00pm Brookfield Safety Bldg.

Saturday, February 12

1:00pm Richfield Town Hall

Monday, February 14

7:00pm Waukesha State Bank
(Downtown Waukesha)

Saturday, March 12

3:00pm Cedarburg Police Department

Wisconsin Internet Access Tax To End... *continued from page 1*

exemption, and are continuing to tax people for logging onto the net. Under the leadership of Governor Jim Doyle, Wisconsin is one such state that has attempted to use this exemption as a permanent source of revenue, and in 2002, it billed Wisconsin Internet users an estimated \$24.3 million for accessing the Internet.

Many consumers don't know they've been hit with this tax because the Internet taxes are sometimes hidden as general state taxes. Wisconsin's state government is continuing this painful practice against the express will of Congress because the grandfather was intended as a transition period, not as a way to provide Governor Doyle with a permanent special taxing tool at a time when more than 40 states have stopped taxing people's Internet access.

Moreover, as one of only a handful of states that taxes Internet access, Wisconsin's growth and ability to remain competitive in the growing technology sector is seriously hampered. Removing this tax is a step toward eliminating Wisconsin's well documented 'high-tax' reputation. For example, according to last June's issue of a Bloomberg report, Wisconsin is ranked last among all fifty states and the District of Columbia as a place for seniors to retire, and it is ranked second-to-last in overall personal wealth friendliness.

While Governor Doyle and Senator Kohl support this tax and believe that the money should go to the government, I believe this tax should be eliminated, so that the people of Wisconsin can decide how best to spend their own money. Beginning November 1, 2006, this will finally happen.

An Agenda Supported by the American Public

On November 2, President Bush became the first president in nearly 70 years to gain a second term to the White House while maintaining and growing his party's majority in the House and Senate. The President obtained more than 50% of the American vote for the first time since his father became president in 1988.

As we prepare to start off the new year and new Congress, my colleagues and I are armed with the endorsement of the American people and more Republicans in both the House and Senate. Consequently, I look forward to a year during which Congress can address some unfinished business.

Border security and immigration bill — First and foremost, you can expect to see a bill on the House floor dealing with vital provisions left out of the 9/11 Intelligence reform bill. This legislation will stop states from issuing drivers' licenses to illegal aliens, and it will close the immigration loopholes that have been exploited by terrorists.

Anti-terrorism bill — Signed into law in 2001, the PATRIOT Act, which has provisions due to expire at the end of the year, will be scrutinized and carefully deliberated, as we make sure that we're taking the right steps to protect Americans from the cowardly actions of terrorists. I will chair hearings in the House Judiciary Committee on this bill. The hearings will include testimony from the US Attorney General, who will be asked to explain what provisions of the anti-terrorism legislation need to be extended for the security of our nation.

Tax cuts — The House will also press for extending the tax cuts that have helped ameliorate the economy by providing small businesses and families with more disposable income. Combined with President Bush's various jobs growth packages, our nation has seen 15 straight months of job gains through November, and we will work to continue this trend.

Healthcare — In the area of healthcare, Congress will pick up where it left off last year when we passed a Medicare reform bill to help people with their healthcare costs, and especially prescription drugs.

Legal reform — We need litigation reform to combat the plague of frivolous and outrageous lawsuits. To address soaring health care costs in Wisconsin and across the nation, we need to rein in uncontrolled and unfair lawsuits that attempt to pick the medical industry's pockets.

Bankruptcy reform — Bankruptcy filings continue to break records and strain the system's resources with nearly 1.7 million bankruptcy cases filed in fiscal year 2003. The House has repeatedly passed bankruptcy reform legislation to assist people who genuinely need assistance in getting back up on their feet, but the Senate has failed to do its part. We will return to this issue.

Undoubtedly, over the next two years, Congress will be under the watchful eye of the American public, and the headlines of every newspaper will center on our actions. But Americans have endorsed Republican reform efforts, and I look forward to being a part of making these reforms a reality.



Congressman Sensenbrenner (right) is honored by the Medical College of Wisconsin with an Appreciation Award, in recognition of his leadership and work in Congress for the advancement of the College's mission of excellence.

Drivers' Licenses For Illegal Aliens?... *continued from page 1*

provision were thwarted by Senators who cited reasons such as, "It's too controversial." Yet, most folks who I talk to, don't see anything controversial about stopping illegal aliens from receiving drivers' licenses. As a result of these Senators, the Intelligence bill that was signed into law includes no enforcement or certification at the national level — there is no expiration when the visa expires, and there is no data sharing between the states.

The law also doesn't address asylum abuse, especially the loopholes that terrorists use. Many terrorist aliens have applied for asylum, and then been released from detention to plot or commit their crimes.

Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind of the first World Trade Center attack, and Hesham Hedayet, an Egyptian immigrant who killed two people at the Los Angeles airport in 2002, exploited our nation's asylum system to remain in the US. Yet the Senate wants to study asylum abuse and not take action.

Provisions to stop illegal aliens from getting drivers' licenses and end asylum abuse are not controversial —

they are vital. How could we face grieving families in the future and tell them that while we might have done more, the legislative hurdles were just too high? I could not, and therefore, opposed this bill when it came to the House floor for a vote.

When Congress reconvenes, I will introduce early in the session, legislation containing the vital homeland security provisions that I have described. We must address these vulnerabilities very soon because we know America's enemies diligently probe our vulnerabilities to carry out their deadly intentions. Many Members of Congress have offered to support closing these loopholes, and I intend to take them up on their offer in the 109th session of Congress. I thank them, and I thank the Fifth District residents, as well as the citizens from all across the country, who understand and want these provisions in law.

This Intelligence bill was a chance to complete the job. That chance was missed, but it will come again soon, and I will not rest until these security loopholes are fixed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Outside Metro Calling Area: **(800) 242-1119**

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Congressman **Jim Sensenbrenner**

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