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## Senate Week Three in Review

**(Frankfort)** – As the third week of the 2003 General Assembly comes to a close, we in the Senate are still awaiting the House to sign-off on a budget. As I mentioned last week, I see little sentiment for raising taxes. We will be working hard to make sure that we develop a fair budget that uses the funds we have wisely.

I would like to talk a little about what else has been going on in Frankfort. Senate Democrats killed Senate Bill 1 in a display of partisanship. Senate President David L. Williams offered legislation, which I co-sponsored and formally managed on the Senate floor, that would allow the General Assembly to put some reasonable restraints on medical malpractice lawsuits. Senate Republicans advocated a constitutional amendment that the people of Kentucky themselves would have voted on; the Democrats obviously disagreed. Nevertheless, we will continue to try to tackle this difficult issue. Our citizens deserve no less.

I have also been involved with other important legislation. Senate Bill 41, the fetal homicide bill, passed the Senate and will be heard in the House. Current law does not allow an additional penalty for killing a pregnant woman's unborn baby. This is wrong and needs to be corrected. The bill does not interfere with a woman's choice in matters of abortion, or the physician's right to provide these services to her, it simply reflects growing sentiment that unborn children should be treated like any other person.

As a member of the Economic Development, Tourism, and Labor Committee, I wholeheartedly supported Senate Bill 77, the "Right-to-Work" bill that passed the committee this week. It bars the firing of workers for refusal to join or pay money to a union. This will provide worker freedom and promote economic development. Currently, there are 22 states that are classified as

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right-to-work; these states are looked on favorably by businesses that want to locate or relocate here.

I sponsored Senate Bill 127 which will allow the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority to use waste-water and water supply revolving loan fund money to secure bonds thereby making more resources available for these projects. This will mean more water and sewer lines to more Kentuckians. It passed unanimously out of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and is now headed to the Senate floor.

I am committed to doing your work. Please call me when you have any questions or concerns at 502/564-3120.

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Note: For a high-resolution .jpeg of Senator Thayer, please log onto [www.lrc.state.ky.us/pubinfo/epphoto.htm](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/pubinfo/epphoto.htm).