

Guest Editorial

(Owen)

CONTACT:

Lourdes Báez-Schrader
(502) 564 - 3120



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Senator
Damon Thayer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 20, 2004

Report from Frankfort

Frankfort – This week, the Senate passed a series of good government bills. Paramount are House Bill 108 and Senate Bill 2.

On Thursday, the Senate President enrolled HB 108 in a final procedural step before the Governor's signature. Kentucky law will soon recognize the death of an unborn child as criminal homicide if the death is caused under circumstances which constitute murder, manslaughter in the first or second degree, or reckless homicide. Many of you may remember that I co-sponsored Senate Bill 4, a similar bill to HB 108, which passed the Senate in January. I am encouraged that members of both our chambers have recognized that the protection of the unborn must rise above partisan politics.

Senate Bill 2 passed the Senate in a bipartisan manner this week. SB 2 was developed to find efficiencies and cost savings in the Transportation Cabinet. Among other steps, this legislation will increase competition – and save money – by cutting down on single-bid projects.

We also passed four government reorganization bills – Governor's Office, Justice, Transportation, and Commerce – which will help make state government more efficient and provide a better use of your tax dollars.

Finally, Governor Fletcher's proposed 6-Year Road Plan was announced and I am happy to report that many of Owen County's road projects will be funded. (You can log on <http://transportation.ky.gov/progmgmt/04RSYP.htm> and see the road plan for yourself.) I met several times with Transportation Secretary Clay Bailey and with the help of County Judge Executive William O'Banion and Representative Royce Adams, was able to persuade the Cabinet of the importance of our road needs. For example, funds were allocated for the widening of KY-22 between Owenton and the proposed new Owen County High School. In addition, the reconstruction of interchanges at KY-22 and KY-845 and KY-22 and KY-1982 were included in the plan. This will help with safety and traffic flow. Many other project needs were also addressed.

Your opinion is important to me. Please be sure to keep me informed about your concerns on the budget as talks on that continue in the House. Call me at 800/372-7181.

###

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