

109th Congress

FIRST SESSION OVERVIEW

The first session of the 109th Congress was productive and eventful. Unanticipated events included two Supreme Court vacancies and Hurricane Katrina took Congress away from business as usual. The two Supreme Court vacancies produced three nominees and three confirmations for the Senate to consider. In the end, John Roberts became the nation's chief justice, Harriet Miers bowed out, and Samuel Alito was confirmed in January.

A busy hurricane season and Hurricane Katrina in particular, reeked havoc in the Gulf Coast. Congress worked quickly to provide money and other assistance for emergency recovery and relief efforts in response.

Other goings-on on the Hill include the indictment of Rep. Tom Delay who stepped aside from his duties as House majority leader when he was indicted on state charges of money laundering. The indictment of Jack Abramoff, a well known Washington lobbyist with close connections to many members of Congress also sent shock-waves through the Hill. Some important pieces of legislation passed by Congress in the midst of all this excitement include:

- ▲ Energy - Offers billions of dollars in tax subsidies to energy companies, sets rules to increase the reliability of electrical supplies, encourages construction of nuclear power plants and encourages the development of alternative energy sources.
- ▲ Central American Free Trade - Removes most of the trade barriers between the United States and six small Central American countries.
- ▲ Highway Safety - Doles out billions in transportation projects across the country. Institutes stringent safety measures, including the first performance standards intended to reduce rollovers. States are eligible to receive additional federal funding if they enact laws allowing the police to pull over drivers for not wearing seat belts.
- ▲ Bankruptcy - This major overhaul of bankruptcy law makes it tougher to erase debt obligations.
- ▲ Class Action Lawsuits - Limits the ability to file class-action lawsuits against companies.
- ▲ Torture - Cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of prisoners in American custody is banned.
- ▲ Gun Manufacturers Liability was restricted.



Ms. Caren Turner, Esq.
CEO, Turner Government
and Public Affairs

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SECOND SESSION EXPECTATION

Congress' first major action in the Second Session was confirmation of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. The most immediate challenge to face Congress after the confirmation will be the renewal of the Patriot Act.

The President calls the Patriot Act a key part of America's efforts to combat terrorism and protect the American people. Shortly before Congress recessed, it approved a five week extension of the law in its current form to allow the debate over reauthorization of this act to continue. The new measure expires February third.

- ▶ 2006 is an election year and control of Congress hangs in the balance. Elections should consume a lot of the members' time.
- ▶ Some pending legislative issues include:
- ▶ Tax cuts and the Alternative Minimum Tax
- ▶ Changes in Immigration
- ▶ Social Security Overhaul
- ▶ Stem Cell Research
- ▶ Asbestos Compensation



Jeff Talley (CEO, Liberty Safe Co.), Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Mike Jennings (COO, Liberty Safe Co.), James Brush (CEO, Sentry Group), Caren Turner (CEO, Turner GPA), Back: Evan Liddiard (Hatch Staffer)



Caren Turner (CEO, Turner GPA), James Brush (CEO, Sentry Group), Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY), Mike Jennings (COO, Liberty Safe Co.), Jeff Talley (CEO, Liberty Safe Co.), Ariella Herman (Associate, Turner GPA)



Visit www.lobbylinx.com for more on Turner Government and Public Affairs' legislative efforts.

HONORS & AWARDS

Caren was named the **Honorary Chairman** of the **President's Business Advisory Committee** to the **National Republican Congressional Committee**, (NRCC). NRCC is a political committee devoted to electing Republicans to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Caren was also named **Republican Leader Honoree** of the **Republican Senatorial Inner Circle Commission** by the **National Republican Senatorial Committee** (NRSC). The NRSC is a committee which was formed to support Republican candidates to the United States Senate by offering current and prospective candidates support in a number of ways.

Caren was also proud to serve on the **Finance Committee** for **Senator Jon S. Corzine** (D-NJ) in his bid for **Governor of New Jersey**. Upon his election, Caren served on the **Finance Committee** of his Inaugural.

TURNER GPA IN THE NEWS

On **November 15, 2005**, Caren Turner, President and Chief Executive Officer of Turner GPA, appeared on **WUSA-TV channel 9**, the D.C. area CBS affiliate to discuss gun safety issues and legislation which would provide a 25% tax credit toward the purchase of a gun safe. To view a copy of the news clip please go to the "Media Notes" section of our web site at www.lobbylinx.com.

On **August 8th, 2005**, Caren was interviewed on **NRAnews.com** regarding legislation which would provide a 25% tax credit toward the purchase of a gun safe. Also interviewed was **Congressman Rob Bishop (R-UT)** an important co-sponsor of the legislation. To listen to the audio clip please go to the "Media Notes" section of our web site at www.lobbylinx.com.

In **May of 2005**, Caren appeared on **News 12 New Jersey** as trustee of **Shelter Our Sisters (SOS)**, a 24-hour, seven day a week, non-profit organization, geared specifically for providing emergency, safe, confidential housing to women and children who suffer the horror of domestic violence. Caren thanked Dr. David B. Schwartz, D.C. and all of the New Jersey chiropractors who took part in Chiropractors Opposing Violence. "Every 9 seconds a woman is beaten in the U.S. The statistics are appalling," said Caren Turner. "There's a certain justice in the fact that hands which were used as tools of violence against these women were used by these wonderful doctors to promote healing for these very same women." As of **November 2005**, Caren was elected **President of SOS**.

In **April of 2005**, Caren appeared on **Good Morning America**.



Caren Turner (CEO, Turner GPA), Jeff Talley (CEO, Liberty Safe Co., Congressman Chris Cannon (R-UT), Mike Jennings (COO, Liberty Safe Co.), James Brush (CEO, Sentry Group), Ariella Herman (Associate, Turner GPA)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

We are proud to announce that in our ongoing efforts to expand our practice, **Turner GPA** recently opened an office in **Tenafly, New Jersey**. The Northern New Jersey office, situated in **Bergen County**, is right across the George Washington Bridge with convenient access to New York City. The new office will help us expand our reach to clients located in New York and New Jersey.

Ariella Herman, formerly of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP, has joined Turner GPA as an associate where she will be intimately involved in each client's government and public relations strategy. "Ariella is a strong addition to our team. She is bright, motivated and extremely talented. She will be a real asset to our firm and our clients," said Caren Turner, CEO of Turner GPA. Ariella has a law degree from New York University and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Brooklyn College. She is licensed to practice law in New York and New Jersey.



For current news on Turner's gun safety efforts, visit www.gunsafecoalition.org

TURNER GPA'S SCORECARD

For the 109th Congress

GUNS, GERMS & STEEL

We are proud to say that the first session of the 109th Congress was a successful one for Turner GPA and our clients. Working with clients of diverse backgrounds, we advocated on behalf of issues relating to **gun safety, healthcare and defense**, among others.

What follows are case studies of work we have done which helped our clients achieve maximum results.

TAX CREDITS FOR GUN SAFETY

Turner GPA is working with the National Gun Safe Coalition (NGSC) to introduce and pass legislation which would provide a 25% tax credit toward the purchase of a gun safe. By encouraging gun owners to purchase gun safes, the NGSC and Turner GPA hope to promote the safe storage of firearms. As is the case with any firearm legislation, the bill faced opposition from both the pro and anti gun lobbies. Turner GPA worked with the NGSC to bridge the gap and create an unprecedented and historical alliance between these lobbies in support of the Child Protection and Home Safety Act of 2005. The legislation which is estimated to cost **\$180 million** over ten years has received the endorsement and praise of Republicans and Democrats alike. The bill has been introduced in both the Senate and the House. We are continuing to aggressively pursue its passage.



HEALTH LEGISLATION

Turner GPA worked with the Vision Council of America (VCA) to promote legislation which would require children to obtain eye examinations prior to entering Kindergarten. VCA is a national not for profit corporation, formed to create awareness of the value of vision care through education, forums and expositions, industry statistics and data, technical standards, alliances and advocacy. Early detection of vision problems help children avoid reading difficulties and could prevent diseases such as amblyopia. VCA had difficulty getting Republicans to endorse the legislation. Turner GPA succeeded in getting over 100 Republicans to affirm that they would assist VCA.

METALS PRICING

Turner GPA is working with several companies to alleviate problems they are facing due to the escalating costs and decreased availability of certain metals. We have been successful in bringing this issue to the attention of Congress and are currently working with both the Congress and Department of Defense towards a solution.

Contact Turner GPA

Office: 202-466-2511 Fax: 202-466-311 Email: info@turnergpa.com