

# THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



## Wicker Looks Back to Successes of Trump’s First 500 Days

*Senate Sets Sights on More Achievements With Cancellation of August State Work Period*

Over the past 500 days, the Trump Administration and a Republican Congress have delivered on many of their promises to the American people. With more work still ahead, now is not the time for a victory lap. In fact, the recently announced cancellation of the August state work period is a signal that the Senate will not be slowing down but adding to its list of policy successes.

### Unemployment Hits 18-Year Low

Those successes – which include massive tax cuts and regulatory rollbacks – are making a noticeable difference in Americans’ lives. The Department of Labor’s jobs report for the month of May underscored the positive effect, including the particularly exciting news that the unemployment rate has now dropped to its lowest rate in nearly two decades. Americans have not seen 3.8 percent unemployment since the turn of the new millennium.

Job creation is booming, with 223,000 jobs added in May and a staggering one million jobs created since historic tax reform was passed last year. The outlook is bright, with polls showing a rising optimism among workers and small business owners.

### Congress Repeals 16 Obama Regulations

Tax reform is only part of the economic equation. The elimination of red tape and unnecessary Washington intrusion has also helped unleash business potential. The 115th Congress has used its authority under the Congressional Review Act to roll back 16 Obama-era rules that put bureaucratic burdens on taxpayers, job creators, and local communities. Other congressional and executive efforts have helped stop costly environmental and

banking rules that were driving up energy bills and discouraging local investment.

These steps to reinvigorate the economy and put Americans back to work should continue. So should the passage of policies that promote the overall well-being of our local communities. Congress has made important strides in this regard, passing measures to take care of our veterans, fight opioid abuse, and remove Obamacare’s most onerous provisions.

### Nominations, Major Bills on Senate Agenda

There is more work to be done. The Senate has been diligent in confirming President Trump’s nominations, but needless procedural delays by Democrats have severely slowed the process. It is appalling that President Trump’s judicial and executive picks have been subjected to 101 cloture votes, compared to 12 times for President Obama and four times for President Bush during their first two years in office. The extra session time in August should allow for the Senate to approve more of President Trump’s nominees to serve the American people.

More big legislative items are on the horizon, and I hope the same can-do spirit that ushered in tax reform will help get these major bills across the finish line. Senate committees have already been working hard on policies to strengthen our nation’s water infrastructure and our agricultural future. The Armed Services Committee has passed the annual defense bill to ensure that our military is prepared and our nation is secure. This summer is shaping up to be a productive one, continuing the record of achievements that has dominated President Trump’s first 500 days.



## Living With Children

By John Rosemond  
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Q: Our 15-year-old daughter has told us she’s in love with a 20-year-old guy who is in the Army and intending to make the Army his career. We’ve met him, and he is extremely respectful and well-mannered, and has told us he’s in love with her. We’ve made it clear to both of them that for the time being at least, they may meet in our home, when we are home, and nowhere else. He is fine with that, he says, and seems sincere. Our daughter, however, is not fine with that. She wants the freedom to see him whenever and wherever. She says we don’t trust her which is only half-true. Even though he says he doesn’t want physical intimacy until he’s married, we know from personal experience how easy it is for young people to get carried away. Her emotionality over this (along with the fact that we actually like him) is causing us to think that perhaps we should allow some meetings away from our home. What are your thoughts?

A: I don’t have thoughts about this issue; having a daughter who was once a teenager, I have but one thought: NO!

Full disclosure: I am very old-fashioned about most things male and female. I do not think teens should be allowed to date until both are sixteen, for example. Why sixteen? I have no defensible reason, actually. Sixteen just seems like a good, albeit admittedly arbitrary, number. Furthermore, if I was doing the dad thing today, any male courting my daughter would first have to come to our home several times where they could watch tele-

## June is “Great Outdoors Month”

Governor Phil Bryant has proclaimed June as “Great Outdoors Month.” Mississippians have a tradition of protecting the environment and enjoying the outdoors.

vision together or something equally exciting (not to mention he would be required to have a long and rather purposefully intimidating conversation with me about matters of life and death) before he’d be allowed to see my daughter without adult supervision. Then I’d set, at least initially, a curfew of 10:00 PM on non-school nights. There would be no curfew on school nights because they wouldn’t be seeing one another on school nights. And so on. In short, I would be Daddy De Inferno, and proud of it.

It’s one thing when both parties are about the same age; it’s quite another when one is a dependent child (who has not reached the age of consent) and the other is an adult. The fact that he intends to make the Army a career is certainly in his favor, but it can also be used to everyone’s advantage. Specifically, you might consider mentioning to your daughter’s suitor that if he initiates or participates in any problem behavior with her – or you even THINK he has done so – that you will make a visit to his commanding officer. That should virtually guarantee good behavior, assuming he is truly serious about making a career of military service.

Having said all that, I’ve known or known of a good number of older married folks who began dating when one was a young adult and the other a minor. In and of itself, the situation is not a recipe for certain disaster, although it often ends up that way. And by the way, based on the conversations I’ve had with these folks, I’m

Outdoor recreation is an ideal way to exercise and enjoy memorable experiences with family and friends.

Mississippi’s 25 state parks, (Continued on page 10.)

These drugs have made it potentially life threatening to be an abuser of any types of drugs. Get yourself educated. If one of your loved ones is struggling with addiction, get them into treatment. Don’t wait until it is too late.

There are many different approaches to the challenge of how to help a substance abuser. For free information, learn the steps of how to get someone into treatment for heroin addiction.

You can also visit <http://www.narcononnewliferetreat.org/drug-abuse-information/heroin-addiction-and-abuse.html> or call 1 800-431-1754 to get help for your loved ones.

Ray Clauson,  
Denham Springs, LA

reasonably sure they would agree with the safeguards I recommend.

These days, when I have the opportunity to advise a young woman concerning marriage, I always advise that she marry a somewhat older guy who is verifiably responsible, mature, and is not living with his parents

(or in digs they have provided). Since that describes the fellow in question, I’d be inclined to restrict but not stand in the way of a relationship.

Need I say I believe in the old “ounce of prevention”?

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MEMBER  
**MPA**  
MISSISSIPPI PRESS ASSOCIATION  
(USPS 247-680)  
**HOLMES COUNTY HERALD**

Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, Mississippi by Holmes County Herald, Lexington, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Holmes County Herald, P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095. Published each Thursday at 308 Court Square, Lexington, MS 39095. Telephone 662-834-1151; Fax 662-834-1074; Email [hcherald@gmail.com](mailto:hcherald@gmail.com); Website [www.holmescountyherald.com](http://www.holmescountyherald.com)

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States. In 2014, it surpassed both car accidents and gun violence in number of deaths.

Those with loved ones who are using opiates or heroin need to be aware that opiates are the main contributors to this problem. With drug dealers across the United States mixing new and powerful synthetic drugs into street opiates such as heroin, the chance of accidental overdose has ex-

ponentially increased.

The drug Fentanyl, U-47700, and Furanyl can be 50 to 100 times more powerful than heroin, making the risk of a fatal overdose much higher. Drug dealers have been using this drug to increase the potency of their heroin at a lower cost.

These new drugs are increasing the risk to any who abuse drugs as drug dealers press drugs into pills and selling them under the guise of being something else. Today,

those who abuse drugs truly are at risk as there is no telling what drugs they are taking. This is why drug rehab for heroin addiction is so important.

Now more than ever, it is essential to help those you know who are addicted to alcohol or drugs. Trying to help someone with an addiction can be more than frustrating. And although you just want to help, many times they fight against you as if you were the enemy. Don’t be surprised if your loved even accuses you of contributing to their addiction. Hear them out and take their words into consideration but at the end of the day realize getting them sober and continuing to live is the most important thing.