

PRESS RELEASE

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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May Passes Bill to Expand Preventative Health Care for High Risk Citizens

SPRINGFIELD, IL – State Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) last week passed legislation expanding preventative state health care coverage for individuals and families who are unable to obtain other health insurance services due to pre-existing medical conditions.

“This bipartisan plan to bring the Illinois Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan in line with all other health plans in Illinois that cover preventive care visits and oral contraception passed the House last year but fell victim to the overtime budget stalemate,” said May. “But expanding coverage for these services to the most vulnerable Illinois citizens is still my priority. I urge quick action in the Senate.”

The Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) Act provides medical coverage for high-risk individuals who cannot otherwise obtain affordable private health insurance and who do not qualify for public assistance. House Bill 4390 extends the coverage under this act for office visits for preventative health screenings, including: mammograms, pap tests, digital rectal exams and prostate-specific antigen tests, colorectal cancer exams and screening and for contraceptives. Coverage of these services would bring the CHIP program in line with state requirements for private insurers and the State Employees Group Health Insurance Program.

“With the soaring cost of health care, we need to invest more in preventative medical services to help save money in the long run,” May said. “Increasing access and availability of preventative screenings for individuals at risk of diseases like cancer will go a long way towards prolonging people’s lives and improving their well being.”

House Bill 4390 awaits action in the Senate. May also passed two other important health care issues out of committee last week. House Bill 4830, which doubles the time employees can continue major medical insurance after they leave employment, and House Bill 4391, which prohibits internet prescribing of prescription medications without medical oversight, both bills await consideration by the full House. For more information, visit www.ilga.gov, or contact May at (847) 433-9100.

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