

Press Release

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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May to Host Community Meeting on Statewide Video Franchising Legislation

HIGHLAND PARK – State Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) will host a community meeting to discuss proposed changes to the state’s telecommunications policies at the Deerfield Village Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2007. Representatives from the cable industry, AT&T, local municipalities, and constituents from May’s district are expected to participate in the discussion. “I have attended lengthy hearings to understand all sides of this issue,” said May. “Now, I want to provide my constituents with the opportunity to learn more about changes that could affect the availability, reliability and quality of video services in the state.”

The Illinois General Assembly is engaged in a debate over how franchise rights are awarded to cable providers. Currently, cable companies must seek individual franchise rights from each municipality or unit of local government they serve. Legislation, House Bill 1500, is being considered that would allow companies such as AT&T, Verizon and other telecommunication carriers to seek one franchise right to provide services anywhere in the state of Illinois. Supporters of this measure believe such a policy would encourage greater competition in the cable industry.

“As a member of the Telecommunications Committee, I will have a crucial vote in deciding whether this bill will be considered by the full House,” May said. “I want to make sure that my constituents and relevant stakeholders have every opportunity to make their views known.” For more information, contact May at (847) 433-9100.

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