

PRESS RELEASE

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

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Rep. May Passes Ban on Internet Prescribing

HIGHLAND PARK – State Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) passed out of the House last Wednesday legislation that would ban the practice of prescribing medications over the Internet and phone without a medical consultation.

“Doctors hundreds of miles away cannot legitimately understand a patient’s medical history and symptoms through a website,” said May. “This legislation is intended to protect patients and put an end to an unseemly practice by unscrupulous individuals looking to make a quick buck.”

May’s bill will stop the practice of companies selling prescriptions for controlled substances and other prescription drugs through the Internet and via telephone sales. House Bill 691 establishes requirements for a prescription to be written, including a physical examination by the prescriber, discussion of treatment options and the prescriber’s maintenance of the patient’s medical records. Some exemptions provided in the legislation include emergency situations, orders for patients admitted to a medical facility and on-call consultations in which one prescriber provides care for another prescriber’s existing patient.

“The FDA approves prescription drugs with the understanding that a trained medical professional will examine a patient and evaluate his or her need for the medication,” May said. “The chances of misprescribing the wrong drugs are greatly increased when direct patient contact is removed from the equation, and can lead to serious, irreversible damage to an individual, even death.”

House Bill 691 imposes a fine of \$1,000 for the first violation and \$2,000 for a second and each subsequent violation. May’s measure now awaits action in the Senate. For more information, visit www.ilga.gov, or contact May at (847) 433-9100.

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