

# *Press Release*

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*... from the Illinois House of Representatives*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
May 17, 2007

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
State Rep. Karen May  
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## **May Expands Illinois Comprehensive Health Care Plan to Cover Mammograms, Contraception**

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

“We have required all other health plans in Illinois to cover office visits for these life-saving cancer screenings and oral contraception,” said May. “But expanding coverage of these services to the most vulnerable of Illinois’ citizens has been excluded from previous reforms.”

The Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan (CHIP) Act provides medical coverage for high-risk individuals who cannot otherwise obtain affordable private health insurance and who cannot qualify for public assistance. House Bill 2285 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 under the CHIP Act brings the coverage for Illinois’ most vulnerable residents in line with previous measures requiring such services covered under the Illinois Insurance Code and the State Employees Group Health Insurance Program.

“I have always supported increased access and availability of health care and preventative screenings for people at risk of diseases like cancer,” May said. “When I discovered that the CHIP Act did not cover office visits for these services I was surprised and immediately went to work to correct this oversight.”

House Bill 2285 awaits action in the Senate. For more information, visit [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov), or contact May at (847) 433-9100.

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