

NEWS

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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May Backed Measure to Close Gun Show Loophole Passes House

SPRINGFIELD – Legislation co-sponsored by State Rep. Karen May (D-Highland Park) closing the gun show loop hole in Illinois that allows gun purchasers to avoid criminal background checks passed the House on Monday and now awaits the governor's approval.

"The passage of this legislation is long overdue," May said. "Keeping guns out of the hands of people that shouldn't have them is not only common sense, it's the law of the land. We already require that citizens in our state undergo a background check before buying a gun at a gun shop and it makes no sense that people can simply sidestep this process. This legislation finally shows that our state is serious when it comes to meaningful gun control."

Currently in Illinois, when a person purchases a firearm from a federally licensed dealer, they are required to undergo a criminal background check conducted by the Illinois State Police aimed at weeding out people who by law, are not allowed to obtain a weapon. These include convicted felons and individuals who are deemed mentally unstable. However, through a loop hole in state law, when a person attends a gun show and buys a weapon from an unlicensed individual, for instance a gun collector, no background check is required. Senate Bill 1333 closes this loophole and makes sure that each person who wants to purchase a gun in Illinois is given the proper background check required by law.

"I don't want to see guns in the hands of criminals, period," May said. "It makes no sense that criminals or terrorist can walk into gun show in our state, buy a high-powered assault weapon and walk right out the door without undergoing a lawful criminal background check. I'm glad that the General Assembly stood up and did the right thing by closing this loop hole."

Rep. May serves the 58th District, which includes all or portions of Deerfield, Highwood, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Riverwoods, Glencoe, Northbrook and Lake Bluff.

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