

# NEWS...

*... from the Illinois House of Representatives*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **Fine-Supported Legislation to Protect Victims of Domestic Violence Signed into Law**

**GLENVIEW, IL** – As part of her efforts to protect victims of domestic abuse, legislation supported by state Rep. Laura Fine (D-Glenview) to increase penalties on repeat domestic abusers was recently signed into law.

“Each year in Illinois there are over 100,000 reported instances of domestic abuse and many more that go unreported,” Fine said. “Perpetrators who continue to harm others should face harsh penalties after each escalation of violence. By increasing the penalties on repeat domestic abusers, we can help break the cycle of domestic abuse.”

House Bill 958 enhances penalties for repeat domestic abusers. Under this new law, an offender with one or two prior convictions could be sentenced to a Class 4 felony punishable by one to three years in jail. An offender with three prior convictions would be charged with a Class 3 felony punishable by two to five years in jail. An offender with four or more prior convictions could be sentenced to a Class 2 felony punishable by three to seven years in jail.

“In addition to physical injury, domestic abuse can cause hidden problems, such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse,” Fine said. “This new law will give victims and witnesses of domestic violence the time and peace of mind they need to recover.”

For more information, please contact Rep. Fine’s constituent services office by calling (847) 998-1717 or by e-mailing [RepFine@gmail.com](mailto:RepFine@gmail.com).

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