

NEWS

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Fine Files First Two Bills

Lawmaker seeks to protect children from harmful energy drinks and dangerous chemicals

GLENVIEW, IL – Just days into her new position, state Rep. Laura Fine (D-Glenview) is hitting the ground running by filing legislation to protect consumers and children.

“I am proud that the first two bills that I will be introducing were brought to me from my constituents,” said Fine. “As state representative it is my goal to listen to the people in my district and be their voice in Springfield. I look forward to introducing additional legislation brought to me from those I represent.”

Fine’s first piece of legislation will prohibit the sale of energy drinks, such as 5-Hour Energy, Monster and Red Bull, to children under the age of eighteen. These drinks can contain as much as 20 times the amount of caffeine found in coffee through the addition of herbs, supplements, and vitamins. Studies have linked health problems, such as seizures, high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat and potential interaction with medications, to energy drink consumption by teenagers.

“In the past four years, emergency room visits have doubled for people seeking treatment after having an energy drink,” said Fine. “For our children, getting these drinks is as easy as getting a bottle of water at the store; unfortunately they do not appreciate the potential health risks of consuming high caffeinated energy drinks. Until we can fully understand the effects of these drinks on our children’s health, we should not make these drinks readily available to them.”

Fine also introduced a bill that would ban the use of Chlorinated Tris in consumer products such as children’s toys and furniture. This chemical was first introduced as flame retardant in furniture, and recent studies have found it to be ineffective and dangerous. The Consumer Product Safety Commission considers Chlorinated Tris to be a carcinogen and found that adding it to furniture nearly doubles the daily dose deemed acceptable to children.

Fine is a member of the Consumer Protection Committee in the House of Representatives. For more information on legislation or to share an idea, contact Rep. Fine’s constituent service office at (847) 998-1717 or RepFine@gmail.com.

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