

# *NEWS...*

*... from the Illinois House of Representatives*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **Rep. Fine Wants State to Develop a Uniform Prior Authorization Form for Prescription Drug Benefits**

**GLENVIEW, IL** – State Rep. Laura Fine (D-Glenview) advanced a measure out of the House Human Services Committee last week, aimed at developing a uniform prior authorization form for prescription drug benefits used by state insurance companies to authorize medical treatment for patients. A prior authorization form is an additional form insurance companies require before deciding to pay for medication.

“Industry research has made evident that physicians and staff spend way too many hours per week navigating through prior authorization forms, when they could be spending more time with patients,” Fine said. “Insurance providers throughout the state use over 300 different prior authorization forms, which in turn have resulted in long delays for patients waiting for, in some cases, lifesaving medication.”

House Bill 3638 proposes changes to the Illinois Public Aid Code as well as the Illinois Insurance Code to require both the Department of Healthcare & Family Services (HFS) and the Department of Insurance (DOI) to develop a uniform prior authorization form for prescription drug benefits on or before July 1, 2014. The form would be all encompassing from Medicaid to commercial plans.

“I know the insurance industry does not believe a “one size fits all” form is the best procedure for prior authorizations, but that has not stopped six other states from passing similar laws in the past few years,” Fine said. “My main concern is patient health, and by streamlining the prior authorization process we will improve our state’s health care, reduce costs and achieve enhanced patient outcomes.”

For more information on future meetings or other upcoming events, please contact Fine’s constituent service office at 847-998-1717 or email RepFine@gmail.com. The 17th Representative District includes all or portions of Evanston, Glenview, Golf, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Skokie and Wilmette.

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