

NEWS...

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Rep. Fine Advances Legislation to Protect Students from Cyberbullying

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –State Rep. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, recently advanced legislation to expand the definition of bullying and protect children from the growth of cyberbullying.

“It is always difficult to see a child struggle with peer pressure and bullying, especially when it takes place in cyberspace leaving children and their parents feeling helpless,” Fine said.

“Unfortunately, in our digital world, the challenge our young people must navigate continues to grow through the Internet, social media, cell phones and other mediums. This legislation aims to further protect children from bullies hiding behind digital communication.”

Fine’s legislation is modeled after laws in other states that have addressed the growing problem of cyberbullying. Under current law, students face discipline for bullying only if the act takes place on school grounds, at a school activity or on a school computer.

The proposed legislation expands the definition of bullying to include cyberbullying. It also allows schools to address bullying that affects a student’s ability to participate in school, but takes place outside of school and on computers and digital devices not owned by the school.

“This measure teaches our young people that regardless of location – actions have consequences,” Fine added. “Students should not be able to get away with bullying classmates and disturbing their learning environment, whether they commit these acts at school or outside of school. I will continue to push for legislation that enables our children to learn, grow and reach their full potential.”

House Bill 4207 now goes before the full House of Representatives for further consideration. For more information, please contact Fine’s full-time constituent services office by calling 847-998-1717 or by emailing RepFine@gmail.com.

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