

NEWS...

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Rep. Fine Advances Measure to Shorten Wait for Prescription Drugs

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –This week, state Rep. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, sponsored and passed legislation to decrease the amount of time patients must wait while prescriptions are reviewed by health insurance companies.

“When doctors prescribe medication, they do so because a patient needs treatment,” Fine said. “Unfortunately, individuals with severe and life-threatening conditions are often forced to wait an unreasonable amount of time while insurance companies decide whether to approve or deny medication requests. Patients should be able to pick up and start taking necessary, prescribed medications to immediately address their pain without unnecessary delay.”

Fine worked with doctors, pharmaceutical companies, pharmacies and patients to craft House Bill 3638. Under this bill, insurance companies have 72 hours to decide whether or not they will help cover the cost of a patient’s prescription. If the insurance company denies the request, they will have to provide a reason, an alternative drug or treatment, and information regarding the appeals process.

“People diagnosed with cancer, epilepsy, mental health diseases and other serious conditions should not have to wait an arbitrary number of days before receiving the treatment prescribed by a physician,” Fine added. “This measure holds insurance companies responsible to their customers by ensuring they reply to a prior authorization request in a timely manner.”

House Bill 3638 now goes to the Senate 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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