

NEWS...

... from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Rep. Fine Passes Legislation to Crack Down on Cyberbullying

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. –To protect students being harassed over the Internet, state Rep. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, recently passed legislation expanding the definition of bullying to include cyberbullying and providing schools with more authority to address online bullying.

“Many students have faced some form of peer pressure and bullying while they were in school, but now these comments and insults follow our children long after they leave the classroom,” Fine said. “Through the Internet, social media and cell phones, students can face constant harassment, which impedes their education and damages their self-esteem. This legislation aims to hold bullying children accountable for their actions regardless of where it occurs.”

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.

“Children need to understand that whether they bully a classmate in school or outside of school using digital devices, their actions have consequences,” Fine continued. “Students should not be able to get away with intimidating fellow classmates, outside of school. I will continue to work with school officials, parents and students to create safe learning environments for our children.”

House Bill 4207 now goes to the state 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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