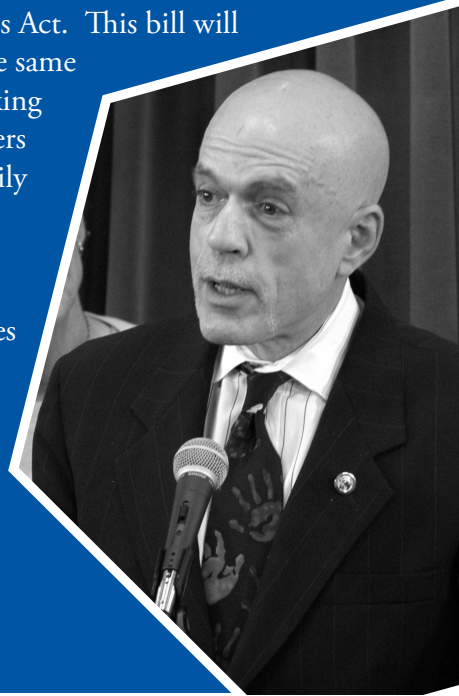


PROMOTING *Civil Unions*

Continuing his fight to ensure that all Illinoisans are granted equal protection under state law, Rep. Harris is working to pass House Bill 1826, the Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Unions Act. This bill will establish civil unions in Illinois and provide the same rights that are granted to married couples, making it possible for all Illinoisans to visit their partners in the hospital, adopt children and receive family leave, insurance protection and tax deductions.

The legislation will also allow widows and widowers legal rights to care for their loved ones without forcing them to take dramatic cuts in their pensions and Social Security.

House Bill 1826 awaits final action in the House.



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Expanding *Health Care*

Studies have shown that disparities in breast cancer detection and mortalities tend to be higher among lower income and minority women. In an effort to close that gap and improve the chances of early detection of breast cancer, Rep. Harris introduced House Bill 5192 to eliminate co-pays and deductibles for mammograms and ensure that pain medication and therapy are covered by state-regulated insurance companies.

House Bill 5192 passed the House and the Senate and now awaits final action.

Early detection and treatment is also critical for men with prostate cancer. Those without health care coverage are more likely to have their disease detected at a later stage when it is harder to successfully cure. Rep. Harris sponsored House Bill 4634, which would provide uninsured, low-income men with access to prostate and testicular cancer diagnostic evaluations, including referrals for any necessary treatment.

House Bill 4634 passed the House and now awaits action in the Senate.

Rep. Greg Harris
1967 W. Montrose
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 348-3434
(773) 348-3475 FAX

Greg Harris

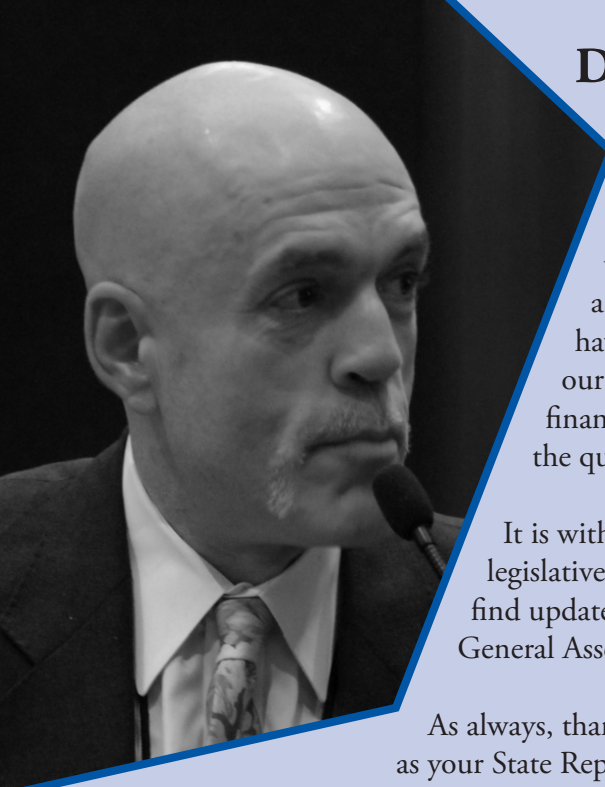
State Representative • 13th District



Summer Update 2008

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- Gun Control
- Civil Unions
- Health Care
- Seniors
- Children
- Ethics



Dear Neighbor,

As your State Representative, I take great pride in maintaining an open and accessible relationship with local residents. Your concerns are my concerns and that is why I have hosted several hearings throughout our neighborhoods to discuss the state's financial status and our efforts to improve the quality of life for local residents.

It is with that intent that I send you my 2008 legislative newsletter. In this newsletter you will find updates on some of the important issues the General Assembly has worked on this year.

As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Representative. Your input is important to the work that we do in Chicago and in Springfield. If you have any questions about this newsletter or any other concerns, please contact my constituent service office at 773-348-3434 or if you are in the area, stop by the office at 1967 W. Montrose Ave. My staff and I are here to help and we look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Sincerely,

Greg Harris
State Representative, 13th District

KEEPING GUNS OUT of Unsafe Households

Rep. Harris continues working to make our neighborhoods safer by improving gun laws to ensure that only the most responsible individuals have access to firearms. House Bill 5191, sponsored by Harris, allows the state police to deny an application for a Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) card or revoke the card of certain parents or guardians of children under the age of 21 who have a history of aggressiveness or serious mental illness.

House Bill 5191 passed the House and awaits action in the Senate.



FIGHTING FOR Our Children



Knowing that our children's success is influenced by their environment and the opportunities they receive, Rep. Harris introduced House Bill 4456 to create the Commission on Child and Youth Act. Under this legislation, a 30 member commission of legislators and child care advocates will develop strategic plans for state agencies, coordinate resources and integrate services with private providers and families.

House Bill 4456 passed the General Assembly and now awaits the Governor's signature.

KEEPING SENIORS Safe and Independent

Rep. Harris knows the benefits for seniors when they are able to stay in their homes, but when a senior and their family make the decision to move to an assisted living arrangement, safety is the most important consideration. Harris supported House Bill 808, a measure requiring background checks for employees who provide direct care to seniors in assisted living and shared home facilities.

House Bill 808 signed into law. Public Act 95-0079.

As property taxes continue to increase, Rep. Harris is fighting to make sure that seniors can afford to stay in the homes they have raised their families in. Harris' House Bill 4788 provides that beginning in tax year 2009, senior households who earn up to \$60,000 annually may apply for tax relief under the state's Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption, a \$5,000 per year increase from the current limit.

House Bill 4788 passed the House and awaits action in the Senate.

As a strong advocate for strengthening penalties for identity theft and fraud, Rep. Harris is committed to making sure seniors have the tools to protect themselves. Anyone suspecting senior fraud should call the **Senior Fraud Hotline at 800-243-5377 (800-964-3013 for TTY)**. Those suspecting abuse should call the statewide, 24-hour **Elder Abuse Hotline at 866-800-1409 (800-544-5304 for TTY)**.



RESTORING ETHICS in Government

During difficult economic times when families are struggling to make ends meet and the state's checkbook is unbalanced, lawmakers have no business awarding themselves pay raises. Rep. Harris backed House Joint Resolution 132, which rejects pay raises of thousands of dollars for various elected state officials, like the governor and legislators. Harris believes that there are more important needs for the state and the money allocated for pay raises should be used for better schools, expanding health care, and rebuilding roads and bridges.

House Joint Resolution 132 passed the House and now awaits action in the Senate.

Rep. Harris also helped pass legislation to prevent elected officials convicted of felonies related to their official duties from being appointed to or running for office again. House Bill 419 will prohibit such individuals from having a second chance at violating the public's trust.

House Bill 419 passed the House and now awaits action in the Senate.

To end "pay-to-play" in the awarding of state contracts, Harris sponsored a measure to ban large campaign donations by contract seekers to those who award the contracts. House Bill 824, the most sweeping government ethics reform since 2003, prohibits anyone with a state contract worth more than \$50,000 from making a campaign contribution to an officeholder who oversees the awarding of the contract. The measure would principally affect those who hold statewide office, such as the governor.

House Bill 824 passed the General Assembly and now awaits the Governor's signature.

Improving Lake Shore Drive

Chicago is filled with many historic landmarks from the Sears Tower to Navy Pier, but none may be more breathtaking than the ride up and down Lake Shore Drive. In an effort to maintain its beauty and improve its lifespan, Rep. Harris worked to appropriate \$4 million in funds to resurface the drive from Hollywood to approximately Irving Park. The construction project will begin in early September after a majority of the lake front and city festivals have concluded for the year.

