

Rejecting Pay Raises

Rep. Harris knows that now is a time of shared sacrifice. Rep. Harris believes everyone, including lawmakers, should do their part to help cut costs.

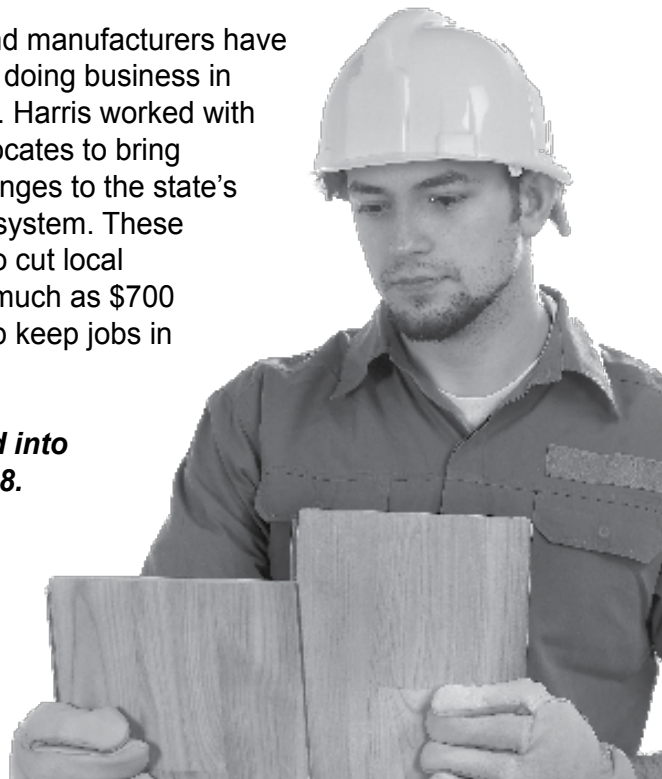
Because it is the right thing to do, Rep. Harris voted to reject an automatic pay raise that legislators were scheduled to receive, voted to make lawmakers work 12 days without pay, and cut legislative expense reimbursements.

***Senate Bill 266 signed into law.
Public Act 97-0071.***

Reforming the Workers' Compensation System

For years, employers and manufacturers have battled the high costs of doing business in Illinois. This spring, Rep. Harris worked with business and labor advocates to bring desperately needed changes to the state's workers' compensation system. These changes are expected to cut local employers' costs by as much as \$700 million annually and help keep jobs in Illinois.

House Bill 1698 signed into law. Public Act 97-0018.



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State Representative Greg Harris

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State Representative • 13th District

Greg Harris



Dear Neighbor:

As your state representative, I take great pride in maintaining an open and accessible line of communication with local residents. Whether I am in the district or in Springfield, I am always available via phone, email and at various events throughout the community.

This year we worked on balancing our budget, cutting costs and protecting our most vulnerable. This newsletter summarizes some of the key issues.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your representative. Your input is very important to me, so please contact me at my constituent service office at (773) 348-3434 if you have any questions or concerns.

If you are in the area, please stop by my office at 1967 W. Montrose. As always, my staff and I are here to help.

Sincerely,

Greg Harris
State Representative • 13th District

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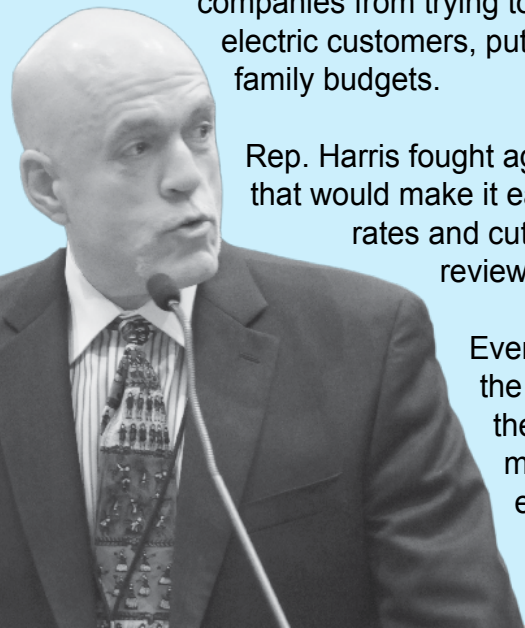
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Working to Prevent Utility Rate Increases

In the midst of a recession, many local residents have lost their jobs or seen their hours at work cut. This hasn't stopped the big utility companies from trying to squeeze even more profits from electric customers, putting an even greater strain on family budgets.

Rep. Harris fought against legislation pushed by ComEd that would make it easier for them to increase utility rates and cut the time the state would have to review rate increase proposals.

Even though Senate Bill 1652 passed the Legislature, Rep. Harris is urging the governor to reject the bill. For more information on how to help stop electric rate hikes, please contact Harris' constituent service office at (773) 348-3434.



Improving Our State's Fiscal Outlook

Illinois is working to recover from the worst economic recession since the Great Depression. Rep. Harris knows that in order to create jobs, and to deliver essential health, education and safety services, we must get the state's fiscal affairs in order.

This spring, Rep. Harris helped implement a bipartisan, transparent and thorough budget process that cut the size and cost of government by more than \$2 billion and requires the state to live within its means.

Democratic and Republican lawmakers worked together in the House to rein in state spending and streamline the delivery of critical services. Many tough decisions had to be made, but Rep. Harris knows we cannot continue to ignore the very serious fiscal challenges the state continues to face.

Preserving Vital Programs for Older Illinoisans



The governor pushed to eliminate both the Illinois Cares Rx and Circuit Breaker programs in his proposed FY 2012 budget. These are crucial programs that help Illinois seniors on fixed incomes save scarce dollars.

Rep. Harris voted to restore \$50 million to the Illinois Cares Rx program to help seniors with the high costs of prescription drugs and \$24 million to the Circuit Breaker program, which provides seniors with needed property tax relief.

Save the Date!

State Rep. Greg Harris' Senior Fair
Wednesday, October 19 at 9:00 A.M.
St. Gregory Bingo Hall
Contact Rep. Harris for more details

Creating Civil Unions in Illinois

After years of negotiations, Rep. Harris' fight for equality was rewarded this year with the passage of legislation permitting Civil Unions in Illinois. The bill took effect on June 1, and since becoming law thousands of couples have taken advantage of this new opportunity. For more information on Civil Unions or how to obtain a license, contact Rep. Harris' office at (773) 348-3434.



Helping End Abuse in Group Homes

In response to the recent findings of abuse and death of some of our state's most frail and vulnerable citizens in group homes, Rep. Harris authored House Bill 653, known as "Paul's Law," to increase protections for patients by requiring a more rapid review of any abuse allegation and requiring state regulators to take action if problems are found. The legislation also requires group home workers to undergo strict background checks.

House Bill 653 sent to the governor.



Rep. Harris testifies before the Human Services Committee on House Bill 653 with the family of Paul McCann.

Keeping Dangerous Guns Off Our Streets

Gun groups pushed legislation allowing almost anyone to carry a concealed weapon near our homes, parks and on our streets. Rep. Harris helped defeat this measure that would have greatly endangered public safety.

House Bill 148 defeated in the House.