

News...

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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New Law Expands Nurses' Ability to Prescribe Drugs *Illinois patients one step closer to better access*

CHICAGO – On Friday, Governor Quinn signed Senate Bill 2255, which was sponsored in the House by State Representative Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago).

Senate Bill 2255 allows for advanced practice nurses (APNs) and physician assistants (PAs) to prescribe an unlimited number of Schedule II controlled substances taken orally, topically, or through transdermal application. Currently, an APN or PA may prescribe Schedule II prescription drugs only if taken orally and only up to five drugs. As with current law, they may not prescribe more than a 30-day supply. Schedule II drugs include some forms of stimulants, depressants and opiates.

“As Illinois prepares for the full implementation of the federal Affordable Care Act, we must continue to explore ways in which we can make healthcare delivery more efficient without jeopardizing patient safety,” said Feigenholtz. “APNs and PAs are qualified medical professionals who have historically not been able to deliver health care services to the fullest extent of their education and ability.”

In order to receive Schedule II prescriptive authority, APNs and PAs must complete at least 45 graduate contact hours in pharmacology with an additional five hours of annual pharmacology continuing education.

“This bill is about improving access to healthcare by removing barriers in the law and allowing these medical professionals to practice to their full potential,” Feigenholtz said. “This is a positive thing for Illinois patients.”

For more information, contact Feigenholtz's constituent services office at (773) 296-4141 or sara@staterepsara.com.

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