

NEWS...



From State Representative Sara Feigenholtz

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For More Information:
State Rep. Feigenholtz
(773) 296-4141

Rep. Feigenholtz Marches on Springfield in Support of Women's issues; Calls for historic vote on Abortion Access

Assistant Majority Leader blasts Governor for playing politics with women's lives

Springfield, Ill. – Just hours after State Representative Sara Feigenholtz marched at the State Capitol with hundreds of other women from more than 50 organizations to speak up for women's rights, the Assistant Majority Leader called a critical women's healthcare bill for a vote on the Illinois House floor.

Legislation sponsored by Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, protecting a woman's right to choose by striking the dangerous "trigger" language in the Illinois Abortion Law of 1975 advanced out of the Illinois House of Representatives today by a 62 to 55 vote. House Bill 40 will help ensure abortion remains safe and legal in Illinois regardless of potential federal efforts to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

"Today is a victory for every woman in our state because it protects every woman's right to choose," Feigenholtz said. "I applaud my colleagues who took the critical vote that removed the dangerous anti-choice trigger language from the original act. Today, we stated unequivocally that access to safe legal abortion will remain protected in Illinois."

"After repeated threats from the White House and President Trump's remarks to strip abortion rights away from women, this legislation was necessary to safeguard a woman's right to make decisions that affect her personal health in Illinois," said Feigenholtz.

Feigenholtz has been a champion of women's health during her time in the General Assembly. The bill also removes discriminatory provisions from Illinois law that denies insurance coverage of an abortion to many women who depend on Medicaid and State Employee Health Insurance.

Before the vote, Feigenholtz sponsored a bus from Chicago to Springfield to enable dozens of activists and concerned citizens to have their voices heard.

“Everyone has the right to not only see democracy in action but also participate in it. I was honored to give my constituents that opportunity,” said Feigenholtz, who earlier this year participated in the historic Women’s Day March in Chicago.

The rally brought advocates of a broad spectrum who support a progressive agenda including access to abortion care as proposed in Feigenholtz’s HB40.

The bill moves on to the Senate and if passed, would allow Illinois to join 15 other states that provide women with health assistance funds that cover the full range of pregnancy-related care including a woman’s decision to end a pregnancy.

Feigenholtz also had a message for Governor Bruce Rauner, who has publically opposed the bill which would give all women, regardless of economic status, the ability to receive the full complement of reproductive healthcare options.

“Governor Bruce Rauner is clueless about what women go through when trying to access reproductive health care in Illinois,” said Feigenholtz. “He sits in his ivory tower spending millions on TV campaign ads— what he needs to do is spend a day in the shoes of a woman struggling to access reproductive health care.”

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

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