

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 84TH DISTRICT

STEPHANIE KIFOWIT



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Greetings!

We did a lot of important work this session. Officially we ended session on the last day of May; however, I was back in Springfield last Wednesday to finish a few bills. I am expecting we will return one more time to vote of the expansive Energy bill.

I have worked very hard to keep you up to date on my Monday morning Facebook Live videos. If you missed my Springfield update, you can watch it [HERE](#).

This was our first session under the new leadership of Speaker Chris Welch. It was a very productive session and the atmosphere in Springfield is collaborative, bi-partisan (mostly), and respectful. It is a breath of fresh air to be working with individuals who want to do good for the whole state of Illinois!!

All together we passed 664 pieces of legislation heading to the Governor's desk, some of which was legislation to protect underserved communities, invest in our kids, and support struggling families as we recover from the pandemic.

I am also thrilled that we have entered into Phase 5, and as of today the statewide positivity of COVID-19 is under 1%. Thank you all for doing your part in getting the vaccine, wearing masks when needed, hand sanitizing, and keeping your distance. I truly pray that the worst is behind us and we will continue our march to normal.

I hope you all had a wonderful Father's day and I wish you the best as we officially begin Summer!

Take care and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.



102nd General Assembly Recap

I know that this past year has been a challenging one for everyone, but I am exceptionally grateful for your trust and support in allowing me to represent and fight for the people of our district. I will continue my efforts in advocating for Veterans, mental health, women's rights, and making sure the issues presented in District 84 are resolved with policy that can provide proper change. We still have a lot of work to do, and I plan on continuing my efforts to fight for our democracy. Thank you to all those who have emailed, called, and reached out to me with your opinions on legislation and key issues. Without your voices participating in our democracy, I would never be able to accomplish what I do without any of you. Let's get back to work!

State Budget

As many have reported in the news, the State of Illinois passed a balanced budget. The budget we passed this year in essence is a maintenance budget without additional funding for almost all of the line items. We only had slight increases in K-12 spending and for individuals with disabilities as I outline here. We also allocated a \$570 million investment in economic recovery and small businesses from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money. Another additional \$350 million went to K-12 education, bringing the total to 9.2 billion; ensuring the schools our children go to are getting the resources they need. \$170 million in additional investment in services for people with developmental disabilities was also a top priority that ensures no Illinoisans is left without proper services. The ARPA helped push for crucial investments as well. From the ARPA, \$570 million went to small businesses, \$350 million for public health response and pandemic assistance to hospitals, \$100 million for violence prevention and summer youth employment, \$100 million for affordable housing and homelessness initiatives and \$5 million for suicide prevention services for our Veterans and those at risk. Together, we were able to assist a variety of Illinois residents from all aspects of life, to make certain that if you needed help, you got it.

Remap

In terms of redistricting, we held our constitutional obligation by passing a map before June 30th, and the map adheres to state and federal laws while also reflecting the diversity of Illinois. We are confident in the map we passed and the data that was used, but we will still review census data when available. We will continue to make changes if necessary, and only changes that support our democracy.

Telehealth

Access to Telehealth Services is more important now, than ever before. HB 3308 requires individual and group accident or health insurance providers to cover telehealth services in the same manner as any other benefits covered on their policy. In a year in which everyone was remote, this legislation will provide critical mental and physical health services at a more accessible and affordable rate to Illinoisans.

Ethics

Corruption is a topic of conversation many Americans feel should be held more frequently with public officials. In the scandal surrounding former House Speaker Mike Madigan, and the main reason why I challenged him and we now have a new speaker, it became apparent that changes needed to occur. SB 539 is a comprehensive bi-partisan ethics package that is a good first step toward restoring confidence in Springfield. The package limits the revolving door of legislators and staff members becoming lobbyists and bans elected officials from lobbying their own unit of government. It also further limits fundraising activity around session, and among other provisions, severely limits the political contributions and activities of members of the State Board of Elections. Confidence and trust must be restored in the people we elect, and this package is only the first of many changes needed to be made.

Criminal Justice Trailer

When the General Assembly passed criminal justice reform in January, my colleagues and I committed to fine-tuning that bill based on the needs and perspectives of the entire state and with extensive input from the law enforcement community. HB 3443 does just that while also maintaining our path toward fundamental shifts in how we handle

individuals with mental health needs, additional training for officers, body cameras and much more. However there is more input that is needed, and those subjects are not going to be in effect until January 2022 to allow more time for discussions. Expect more changes to occur as we continue to work with community members and members in law enforcement in the near future on making this legislation better.

Elected School Board

We finally achieved what I have voted now five times to support: securing a fully elected school board for CPS. While the bill doesn't set the timeline House sponsors originally wanted, there are key protections during the transition period that includes a moratorium on school closures and city council confirmation of temporary appointed members. This bill passed last Wednesday, and I am happy to be a part of bringing democracy to the residents of the Chicago School District as it makes its way to the Governor's desk. The chief sponsor of the bill, Leader Ramirez, will continue to work with the Mayor to fine tune the bill.

Illinois Department of Employment Security

HB 2643 is on its way to the Governor's desk. It addresses the challenges many of you have faced trying to get your deserved unemployment benefits. The bill will change the manner in which the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) handles claims. This bill will allow legislators to communicate directly with IDES at any time if a constituent needs assistance with unemployment benefits. The legislation also requires IDES to report fraudulent claims to the Illinois Department of Revenue and further protects the private information of applicants.

Representative Kifowit Passes 14 Bills this Legislative Session

State Rep Stephanie Kifowit

102nd General Assembly • 14 Bills Passed

- ✓ SB 2323- DCFS-Prohibited Restraints: Ends the practice of using metal shackles on children and reduces the use of soft shackles.
- ✓ HB 0355 - Procurement-Lease Property: This legislation allows the State of Illinois to cost-effectively negotiate lease contracts that it currently has.
- ✓ HB 0307- DCFS Foster Youth Travel Bag: DCFS to provide replacement travel or tote bags to all foster youth instead of giving out garbage bags.
- ✓ HB 0588-Human Rights-Trafficking-Notice: Helps victims of human trafficking by connecting them to the National Hotline.
- ✓ SB 0154- Affordable Housing-Pets: Landlords can not restrict tenants from owning pets as long as certain conditions are met.
- ✓ HB 1815- Veterans' Ailments Taskforce: This taskforce will meet regularly to identify Veterans with service-related ailments in addition to evaluate the claims process for Veterans in IL.
- ✓ SB 1672- Homeowner's Liability Ins-Dogs: This bill ensures that insurance companies do not discriminate against specific breeds of dogs and also directs the Illinois Department of Insurance to collect data on claims with regards to animal claims on homeowner insurance.
- ✓ HB 0592- Radiochemistry Lab Program: The IL Emergency Management Agency's scientists are responsible for the regulation of nuclear power.
- ✓ SB 2240- Government Severance Pay: Closes a loophole and restricts the payout of lavish severance payments for university and community college presidents.
- ✓ SB 2109- Trauma -Informed School Board: Requires school board members to be trained on the negative effects of trauma on student behavior and learning.
- ✓ SB 2664- Notary-Electronic Documents: Establishes the process for electronically notarizing documents in addition to the traditional notarized procedure.
- ✓ SB 2250- Vet Benefit Funding Reporting: Establishes a report for all donations made to our Veterans home to ensure funds are being spent wisely and appropriately.
- ✓ SB 1539- Procurement-Quincy Vet Home: Helps to keep consistency for procurement contracts.
- ✓ SB 0346- Medicaid Dental Coverage: Those under the Medical Assistance Program qualify for dental care.

Fishing Derby

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Fox Valley Park District are co-hosting a **FREE Youth Fishing Derby at Jericho Lake in Aurora on Sat, July 10th** **Pre-registration is required** as space is limited, so click on the below link TODAY to register: <http://FishFoxValley.eventbrite.com>

If you have any questions regarding this event, please call IDNR's Ted Penesis at 847-608-3108.

Join us for a family-friendly

FREE Youth Fishing Derby

Saturday, July 10 at Jericho Lake, Aurora



Enjoy a day of fishing complete with food, prizes and more!
All ages and skill levels are welcome, with prizes awarded to youth by age group.
Join us to reconnect with nature and gain experience fishing! Fishing poles will be available to those in need.



To register, visit the web at:
[FishFoxValley.eventbrite.com](https://www.fishfoxvalley.eventbrite.com)

Questions? Please call 847-608-3108 or
email Ted.Penesis@illinois.gov.

Thank you to our co-sponsors



City of Aurora

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Aqua Illinois



Openlands



Marmion Bass
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Farmer's Market Vaccines

The Kane County Health Department will be offering free Covid-19 vaccinations at all Aurora Farmer's Market dates. These vaccines are free and do not require an appointment.

The Farmer's Market will be open Saturdays from June through September, from 8am-12pm, and is located at Water Street Square (65 Water Street) in Downtown Aurora- across the street from city hall and the Water Street Mall.



Facebook Live

I continue to host Monday Morning Coffee live via Facebook at 9:00am-10:00am where you can post your comments and questions.

I realize not everyone has Facebook. The good news is that you can still participate. If you would like to join us on Monday mornings, you can join in via ZOOM! Once connected via ZOOM, you'll be able to interact just as if you were on Facebook. Don't worry you will not be on live - your video feed and mic will be muted.

The ZOOM link will be emailed to everyone separately for Monday morning participation.

If you would like to join us, please email Michelle@ILDistrict84.com or call the office at 630.585.1308

Reminder: We will **NOT** be hosting a Facebook Live on Monday July 5, we will be resuming Monday July 12 at 9:00am.



Senior Meal Distribution

5 Frozen Meals

Call or Email Today To Sign Up!

For eligibility you must reside in Kane County and be 60 years of age or older. Ineligible if you are participating and receiving Meals on Wheels. Must be signed up no later than Friday by noon prior to event. 630.585.1308 or intern@ildistrict84.com

Senior Meal Distribution Drive-Thru



Rep. Barbara Hernandez



Rep. Stephanie Kifowit



Rep. Keith Wheeler

Mondays from 11am -1pm



Summer 2021 Dates:

5/24, 6/21, 7/12, 8/16, 9/13



St. Athanasios Greek Orthodox Church, 1855 5th Ave, Aurora, IL 60504

***Only Available Via Registration:**

To register, call: 630.585.1308 (Kifowit)
630.270.1848 (Hernandez)
630.345.3464 (Wheeler)

*Registration closes the Friday before at 12:00pm



Adults who are 60+ and reside in Kane county are eligible for 5 frozen meals. You must call to register to be eligible to participate. You are not eligible if currently enrolled in Meals On Wheels

www.ildistrict84.com - michelle@ildistrict84.com
www.StateRepresentativeBarbaraHernandez.com - hailey.repbhernandez@gmail.com
www.repkeithwheeler.com - office@repkeithwheeler.org

Meals Provided by the Kane Senior Council. This is a Temporary Service that may conclude at any time. For more information about Kane Senior Council call 630.338.0999 or email info@kaneseniorcouncil.org or visit kaneseniorcouncil.com

IDES Fraud

The Department of Employment Security (IDES) continues to monitor fraudulent phishing efforts and we would like to share with you information outlining the types of correspondence the public should be aware of to avoid becoming victims of fraud. It also includes resources available for those who need to report a fraudulent claim.

Fraud Alert: Phishing Schemes

The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) continues to monitor new phishing schemes targeting individuals. Bad actors posing as IDES representatives are trying to trick individuals into disclosing their personal information through text, email, and social media messages.


It is critical for claimants and the public to remain vigilant to detect fraudulent correspondence:

- **Follow [steps from the FTC](#) to recognize and avoid phishing scams.** The examples below include tell-tale signs of a phishing scam, such as referring to the “Division of Employment Security” as opposed to the “Department of Employment Security” and directing to untrustworthy websites.
- **Strengthen and protect account information.** Individuals collected unemployment insurance should maintain a strong password that is unique to their IDES login, and never share their personal information with an untrustworthy source. For example, information regarding an individual’s IDES account should never be shared on social media. Additional tips are available on [IDES’s fraud webpage](#).

Phishing sample #1: Text Message

Your Illinois Unemployment Insurance Claim is currently on hold for verification purpose. Please verify your claim by clicking the link provided below <https://bit.ly/3z42Ny5> to sign in and activate your account.

Phishing sample #3 – Facebook

 **Ademola Bbmc** t.me/l was approved on the 15th of March 2021, but my payment has been on Hold but I got paid today with the help of Their Telegram Page Messenger Help by verifying my Identity with my Employment history. Message them directly with their handle, they will surely help you out
t.me/illinosIDES

Phishing sample #2: Email

From: Illinois Department of Employment Security PUA Benefits <sue@carter82.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 7:31 AM
Subject: Dear claimant



Dear claimant,

The Division of Employment Security has added additional \$900 weekly benefit to your existing Unemployment Claim.

Visit [Unemployment Claim \(Regular or PUA\)](#) to certify your \$900 weekly benefits.

The \$900 is paid every week when the unemployment benefits are paid.

Note: The Division of Employment Security will process your claim and verify the information provided is correct

Additional Resources

IDES: [Fraud and Identity Theft Resources](#)

Federal Trade Commission: [How to Recognize and Avoid Phishing Scams](#)

US Department of Justice: [Press Release on Unemployment Schemes](#)

USDOL Office of the Inspector General: [Unemployment Insurance Phishing Fraud Alert](#)

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