

# News...

*from the Illinois House of Representatives*

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

State Rep. Stephanie Kifowit  
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## **Kifowit Advances Legislation to Protect Children from Dangerous Powdered Caffeine**

**SPRINGFIELD, ILL** – Because powdered caffeine is becoming more popular and available through the internet, leading to deadly results, legislation sponsored by state Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, to keep this potentially dangerous substance out of the hands of children after the deaths of young teenagers in other states passed committee Thursday.

“The legislation will not only provide protect ions for children and young teenagers, but will also begin the dialogue that needs to happen about the dangerous results of common ingredients, such as caffeine, being taken in excess,” Kifowit said. “The tragic deaths that have resulted from powdered caffeine ingestion could have been prevented with better regulation of this dangerous substance. Powdered caffeine is nearly 100 percent pure caffeine and individuals need to know that a small amount can be deadly.”

Kifowit’s Senate Bill 9 would ban the sale or distribution of powdered caffeine to anyone under the age of 18. Powdered caffeine is currently available because it is used as a supplement and not subject to FDA approval. A single teaspoon of pure caffeine is roughly equivalent to the amount in 25 cups of coffee. As a result, in relative small doses powdered caffeine can be fatal.

Powdered caffeine was ruled as the cause of death for a popular 18-year-old student-athlete in Ohio, and an active young adult in Alabama. Their deaths are the inspiration for this bill. Kifowit hopes that bringing awareness and regulation to a potent substance will prevent losing a loved one.

“The tragic deaths of Logan Stiner and Wade Sweatt could have been prevented had there been safeguards in place preventing young people from buying powdered caffeine,” Kifowit said. “Instead, a family that had been planning on seeing their young ones grow and have families of their own will never be realized. Going forward, I will be researching future legislation to curtail the dangers of powdered caffeine.”

The Illinois Poison Center hotline can be used to answer questions about powdered caffeine and they can be reached at [1-800-222-1222](tel:1-800-222-1222). In case of an emergency, or if you suspect someone has overdosed on powdered caffeine, call 911. For more information, please contact Kifowit’s constituent service office by phone at [630-585-1308](tel:630-585-1308), by email at [Stephanie.Kifowit@att.net](mailto:Stephanie.Kifowit@att.net), or by visiting [www.ILDistrict84.com](http://www.ILDistrict84.com).

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