



For Immediate Release
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ATTORNEY GENERAL CALLS ON GOVERNOR TO SIGN NURSING HOME RESIDENT'S RIGHT-TO-KNOW BILL

Bill Will Provide Residents and Families Access to Important Information

Chicago - Attorney General Lisa Madigan, State Rep. Kevin Joyce (D - Chicago) and State Sen. Ed Maloney (D - Chicago) today urged Gov. Rod Blagojevich to sign into law the Resident's Right to Know Act, which will provide important information to families considering long term care facilities for their loved ones. The Illinois Senate yesterday approved House Bill 3508 by a unanimous vote after House members gave unanimous approval to the bill last session. The bill now moves to the Governor's desk for signature.

"Illinois families need the Governor to sign this bill into law to ensure that when they seek long term care for their loved ones, they will have access to critical information to help make the most informed decision possible," Madigan said. "This law will make the information easy to locate and readily accessible through the State Long Term Care Ombudsman's Web site."

Attorney General Madigan drafted the measure, which was sponsored in the House by Rep. Joyce.

"As the chairperson of the Aging Committee, I am anxious for the Governor to sign this legislation, so families will have more access to the qualifications of the facilities that they entrust with the care of their loved ones," said Rep. Joyce.

The Act will require each licensed, long term care nursing facility to complete an annual Consumer Choice Information Report that includes information about the facility's quality of care, services and security issues related to the residents and the staff of the facility. This important information will assist families in choosing a facility or monitoring a facility where a family member might currently reside.

"I am pleased that this bill will give consumers the opportunity to compare facilities. Ultimately, this bill will protect consumers and will motivate facilities to comply with current rules and regulations relating to employees, facility equipment and the facility itself," said Sen. Maloney.

Madigan notes that the Resident's Right to Know Act will provide important information to families without creating another time-consuming burden for the providers of long term care. The Consumer Care Information Reports are a

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series of questions that in most cases can be answered with a “yes,” or a “no,” or a number. For example:

- Does the facility have a certified Alzheimer’s Unit?
- Can the residents choose a pharmacy?
- Does the facility have computers for resident use?
- Does the facility provide 24-hour registered nurse coverage?
- Does the facility allow resident’s families to install a video camera in their room?

Once signed by the governor, the measure will become law January 1, 2009.

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