

Jil's Statehouse Report

June 20, 2011

Rep. Tracy Pleased Good Samaritan CPR Legislation Signed into Law

Springfield, IL...State Representative Jil Tracy (R-Quincy) said she was pleased to see Governor Quinn sign House Bill 1549 into law on Monday. The legislation aims to protect individuals who are trained and perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation on a victim from potential civil liabilities. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Tracy and was an initiative of the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross.

"It is important that in emergency situations where someone's life may be in jeopardy and all that may be able to offer assistance do so without hesitation," said Rep. Tracy. "These are split second decisions where a life is at stake. I don't think we want someone who is trying to perform a heroic act, such as CPR, having to worry about potential civil penalties if by chance something goes wrong."

House Bill 1549 states that any person who is trained in basic CPR and provides CPR to an

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apparent victim shall not be held liable for civil damages, unless the acts constitute willful misconduct. Current Illinois law only extends these protections to those who are legally certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

"It is my hope that this new law will encourage people to provide life saving resuscitation in the event of an emergency, regardless of their medical qualifications," Tracy said. "If this new law saves just one life, it is well worth it."

The provisions contained in HB 1549 will become effective immediately.