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FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRED CRESPO

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For More Information:
State Rep. Fred Crespo
(630) 372-3340

Crespo Legislation to Remove ‘retardation,’ ‘crippled’ from State Statutes Signed by Governor

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL – Furthering his commitment to protect those with disabilities, State Rep. Fred Crespo (D-Hoffman Estates) announced that his bill to update state statutes and remove the terms “mental retardation” and “crippled” was signed by the Governor.

“This piece of legislation removes hurtful, insensitive language that has been on the books for too many years,” said Crespo. “This is a step forward but our work shouldn’t stop here. We must continue to advocate on behalf of those living with disabilities.”

Crespo was a chief co-sponsor of SB 1833 which replaces every occurrence of “mental retardation” with “intellectual disability”, “mentally retarded person” with “intellectually disabled person” and “crippled” with “physically disabled” from existing state statutes.

“Our laws should reflect the people of Illinois, and updating these derogatory terms illustrates our commitment to protecting the rights of the disabled,” said Crespo. “In today’s world, words do matter. This legislation prevents further marginalization of those with disabilities and protects them by removing these antiquated phrases.”

For more information, please contact Crespo’s constituent service office at (630) 372-3340.

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