



News From
State Representative Dennis Reboletti

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Reboletti Bill Regarding School Violence Threat Passes Committee

Springfield, IL ... In response to a recent threat made against an Elmhurst school, State Representative Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst) is pushing legislation through the Illinois House that would increase the penalties for threats made to a school.

“Nearly a month ago, my son’s grade school was evacuated after receiving a threatening phone call. Fortunately the threat was a hoax and students and staff were safe, however the current penalty for threatening a school does not reflect the seriousness of the crime,” said Reboletti, who serves as minority spokesperson of the Judiciary II – Criminal Law Committee.

House Bill 1105, which recently passed the Criminal Law Committee, increases the penalty for disorderly conduct when the offender alarms, disturbs or threatens a school or anyone associated with the school. The penalty would increase from a Class C misdemeanor, punishable up to 30 days in jail and \$1,500 fine, to a Class 4 Felony, punishable by 1 to 3 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

In February, Emerson School in Elmhurst received a threatening phone call where students and staff evacuated to Mary Queen of Heaven Church, located near the school. The school day was disrupted for two hours while the building was secured by Elmhurst Police.

“Threats to schools disrupt classroom lessons and require expensive law enforcement responses. We’ve seen several instances locally and on the national level where viable threats made against schools caused wide-spread panic and even injury to students and staff,” he said.

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Besides the potential for injury to those involved in the incident, Reboletti said there is a cost associated with an evacuation. He also is the chief co-sponsor of House Bill 4049 that provides a person who makes a threat against a school, whether the threat is true or false, is required by court to reimburse the unit of government that employs the emergency response officers dispatched to the incident.

Reboletti said he is proud of the precautions taken by school personnel and local police.

“I would like to personally thank the staff of Emerson School and Elmhurst Police for providing a safe evacuation of the students and for keeping parents well-informed of the situation,” said Reboletti.

For more information, please call Rep. Reboletti’s district office at (630) 530-2730.

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