



News From State Representative Dennis Reboletti

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Reboletti Heroin Bill Passes House

Springfield, IL ... Due to the rise of heroin arrests in Elmhurst, State Representative Dennis Reboletti (R-Elmhurst) sponsored a bill that passed the House last week lowering the threshold needed to send dealers to prison.

“We are seeing epidemic proportions of heroin use in DuPage County and the collar counties. It’s become cheaper, more pure and more readily available. Unfortunately, it’s become the new drug of choice,” said Reboletti, a former narcotics prosecutor.

Elmhurst Police Chief Steven Neubauer said the trend of heroin use in town is on the rise. In 2008 Elmhurst police made 14 heroin-related arrests and 54 in 2009. Last year alone, two men died of a heroin overdose in town and one in 2008, he said.

“Heroin use is on the rise. Dealers are coming out from Chicago and the west Cook County suburbs. They used to never step foot in Elmhurst,” he said.

House Bill 5148, which passed the House, would increase the minimum prison sentence for possessing 5 grams of heroin with the intent to sell from four years to six years. Currently heroin dealers face the longer sentence if they are convicted of possession of 15 grams or more.

Reboletti said dealers usually package and sell heroin in smaller amounts, making it harder to put them behind bars and his bill would rectify that problem.

Neubauer said the going rate is \$10 a hit, which doesn’t seem expensive, but with regular use, the body needs more and more to get that initial high.

“These drug dealers are poisoning our community and making huge profits,” said Reboletti.

The Elmhurst Police and local schools have been proactive in reaching out to students and parents about heroin through seminars at York High School. The outreach has identified medical and rehab resources for students, said Neubauer.

“I applaud Representative Reboletti’s proposed legislation which gives law enforcement more leverage to stop these highly addictive drugs from coming into our town, into our schools and bottom line protecting our children,” said Pete DiCianni, Mayor of Elmhurst. “As we have been proactively seeking out the sources such as the Chicago’s west side our officers will now have more leverage to put these dealers in jail and nip the problem before it comes to Elmhurst.”

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