

NEWS



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE JOHN FRITCHEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 2009

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Fritchey Renews Effort to Fix Moment of Silence Law *Legislation Comes in the Wake of Recent Court Decision*

CHICAGO - State Rep. John Fritchey (D-Chicago) today announced he has again introduced legislation seeking to amend the recently overturned Silent Reflection and Student Prayer Act.

Last session, the General Assembly, over Fritchey's vocal dissent, passed a law requiring schools throughout Illinois to start each day with a moment of silence for prayer or other thoughts. On Wednesday, a federal judge agreed with Rep. Fritchey, finding the law to be unconstitutional.

"The court made the right decision by striking down the law," said Fritchey. "This was not an issue of whether prayer should be allowed in our schools. It was about an improper attempt by the state to take away local control from school districts and substitute an arbitrary state policy in its place. In these tough times, it is really unfortunate that dollars that could have gone into the classroom instead go into the courtroom."

Fritchey's legislation, HB 288, would return the law to its original permissive form. Additionally, it provides that this period shall only be an opportunity for such silent reflection as may be desired by each individual pupil. The measure is co-sponsored by Republican State Representative Roger Eddy, and is identical to legislation the two legislators introduced last year.

Fritchey, a 12-year veteran of the state legislature, has been an unyielding advocate for the protection of constitutional rights.