

## **THE JACOBS REPORT**

**GILDA Z. JACOBS**  
**MICHIGAN SENATE**  
**Assistant Democratic Floor Leader**  
**FOURTEENTH DISTRICT**

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **DEFIBRILLATOR BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR**

#### **Jacobs: "This law will save lives."**

Governor Jennifer Granholm has signed into law a bill that will require defibrillators in all health club facilities. The bill was unanimously approved by the Michigan Senate. The bill, PA 23, sponsored by Sen. Jacobs, will assure that facilities conspicuously display the life-saving equipment, which administers an electric charge to correct rapid and irregular heart contractions. The new law also requires health clubs to have an emergency plan in place in case of sudden medical situations.

Sen. Jacobs became aware of the need through the untimely death of a constituent. In 2002, Greg Bolak, 49, a Ferndale elementary school principal, was playing basketball at a local health facility when he suffered a heart attack. Bolak's son, Ted, had just arrived at the facility to join his father in a game. He watched his father die before emergency personnel arrived on the scene. Greg's life might have been saved had there been a defibrillator in the facility.

After Greg's death, his wife Karen, a university professor, and son Ted were shocked to learn that there were no legal requirements mandating lifesaving equipment or formal emergency plans in health facilities. That's when their efforts to require defibrillators began in earnest.

"Hopefully, the passage of this bill will assure that no other family will suffer the loss that we did," Karen Bolak said.

"Sadly, this legislation comes too late for Greg Bolak, but hopefully it will help prevent other needless deaths," Sen. Jacobs said. "His legacy is that this should never happen to another through lack of the necessary life-saving equipment."

Jacobs is currently working on a complementary bill that will require all first-responders to emergencies to carry defibrillators. Unfortunately, many ambulances and other emergency vehicles do not carry these essential life-saving devices.

### **TAXPAYER CONTRIBUTIONS PROTECT KIDS**

#### **Check-off on tax forms raises millions for youth programs**

Taxpayers have the chance to help fight child abuse when paying their taxes by using the Michigan Children's Trust check off box on their 2005 state tax return forms.

“The money raised through the income tax check off is vital to creating a healthy environment for children in Michigan,” said Senator Jacobs. “These contributions are used to protect children who become victims of abuse and neglect.”

Every five minutes, a child in Michigan is a victim of child abuse or neglect, and though over 350 cases are reported daily, many more are not. Child abuse and neglect cuts across all socio-economic, geographic, ethnic, and gender lines. Research has shown us that those most at risk and vulnerable are the youngest children in our society, age 6 and under, who represent more than two-thirds of all reported victims. There is also a direct correlation between the abuse and neglect perpetrated on our youngest citizens and crime and violence in later years. In fact, most child abuse and neglect can be prevented, and for every \$1 spent on prevention, \$34 can be saved on the consequences of abuse, not to mention the human costs which are immeasurable.

A small donation brings resources to Michigan’s child-abuse protection programs. Programs and services funded by these monies include respite care, parent education, pregnancy and newborn support services, support groups, local family resource counsels, public education and outreach programs in local communities. Taxpayers contribute to the Children’s Trust Fund by entering their contribution amount in the space provided by the check-off box. Michigan Children’s Trust Fund is the only state-wide organization dedicated solely to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

## **STOP SMOKING NOW**

### **Local Resources are Available to Help**

The Oakland County Health Division wants to help you quit smoking. For free Quit Kits, resource directories, and smoking cessation materials, please call 248-424-7172.

The Michigan Department of Community Health also provides a list of 265 regional smoking cessation programs across the state. Just look for your county to find the programs near you. Click here for the complete list: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2939-16781--,00.html>

If you have a friend or relative who lives in Michigan, but outside of Oakland County, Quit Kits can also be obtained at 1-800-537-5666.

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All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14<sup>th</sup> District may contact Senator Jacobs at [sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov) or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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