

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7888 • Fax: 517-373-2983
E-mail: sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.mi.gov/jacobs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jun 27, 2008

Contact: Sen Gilda Z. Jacobs
Phone: (517) 373-7888

SEN. JACOBS INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO ENSURE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT SAFETY

LANSING – Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) today introduced legislation to amend the Playground Equipment Safety Act to include flagpole requirements in the Act's maintenance, repair and upkeep requirements. The legislation also requires any replacement flagpoles to be made of aluminum or material considered high strength and lightweight according to industry standards.

The legislation comes in response to the death of Ferndale kindergartener Angel Pocock-Smith, who was struck by a 45-foot steel flagpole that fell on her during a playground recess. Although the flagpole had been visually inspected, an investigation after the tragedy revealed that the pole had been severely weakened internally from years of rust and corrosion and toppled under windy conditions. This bill would require that flagpoles be held to the same safety standards and inspection frequencies as other equipment on playgrounds.

"This was a horrific tragedy," Sen. Jacobs said. "My hope is that by strengthening the standards for playground equipment, we can avoid ever having such a terrible accident occur again."

###

Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, 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 Campaign & Election Oversight and the Families & Human Services committees and a member of the Economic Development & Regulatory Reform; Health Policy; and Finance committees.

