



# NEWS

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## From the Illinois Senate

### *State Senator Dave Koehler*

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#### **Koehler votes for breast, cervical cancer screenings and insurance for families who need health care**

**SPRINGFIELD** – State Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) has voted for supplemental appropriations in the Illinois Senate to provide for funds for healthcare programs for low – income residents of the state.

“By providing these funds, we are hoping to help residents of Illinois who do not have basic healthcare coverage. The old adage of ‘an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure’ holds true, especially when it comes to healthcare. Providing the funds to prevent disease will help keep costs down in the long run,” Senator Koehler said.

Among the healthcare highlights of the supplemental appropriations are:

- Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program Expanded Eligibility
  - Expansion of screening and treatment for cancer.
  - Cost is \$10 million in Fiscal Year 2008; \$18.0 million annually for the entire Breast and Cervical Cancer Program in Fiscal Year 2009
- Family Care Expanded Eligibility
  - Program works like a health insurance policy with co-pays and premiums. The program is not free.
- Provides health insurance coverage for parents of children. Prohibits ‘spending down’ to qualify for the program.
  - Family of four making \$84,000 annually would qualify.
  - Cost is \$43 million in Fiscal Year 2008; \$123 million annually for the entire Family Care program in Fiscal Year 2009

The supplemental appropriations will be provided for by transferring certain funds, not including funds from the state’s road fund or OSLAD fund. The appropriation provides for another \$53 million in funds for various projects that were vetoed by the governor out of the Fiscal Year 2008 budget.

“These appropriations will, hopefully, provide funds for, not only increased healthcare for low – income residents, but also, for unfinished projects that are in need of resources for completion,” Senator Koehler said

The supplemental appropriations now go to the Illinois House of Representatives for approval.

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