

# *Press Release*

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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## **KAREN MAY PROPOSES BAN ON HAND-HELD CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING**

**Highwood, IL** – Encouraging safe and responsible driving habits, State Representative Karen May (D-Highland Park) introduced legislation on Thursday to prevent Illinois drivers from using cellular phones or other personal electronic devices without a hands-free device.

“The danger of cell phone use while driving is clear, but too many people still choose to pick up phones to make calls or type text messages when they should be focusing on safe driving techniques,” May said. “Illinois needs to join the increasing number of states banning hand-held cell-phone use while driving.”

Several states and local governments have already enacted similar bans, including California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Washington state, Washington D.C., and Illinois cities including Chicago and Winnetka. No state or municipality has fully prohibited cell phone use while driving. May’s House Bill 5454 would prohibit all cell phone use while driving except in instances there is an emergency situation, when the driver is stopped and the car is in neutral or park, or if the driver is using GPS navigation software on their mobile phone device.

“This is a continuation of work lawmakers began last year when we banned texting while driving and a separate measure to prohibit cell-phone use in school and construction zones,” May said. “It is appropriate to extend these common sense safety precautions uniformly across the state and to ensure that as cell phones and other devices become more common, they do not compromise road safety.”

For more information, contact May’s constituent service office at (847) 433-9100.

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