

Key Illinois Legislator and Repeal Champion Coming To Oregon

On the heels of the repeal of the Illinois death penalty, Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (OADP) have invited Rep. Karen Yarbrough, sponsor of the Illinois legislation to repeal that state's death penalty, to a Portland event set for 7:30PM on June 8th. After a ten-year moratorium on executions, the Illinois General Assembly passed the repeal legislation which was signed into law by Gov. Pat Quinn on April 11th. Rep. Yarbrough, who is also the Assistant Majority Leader of the Illinois House of Representatives, will be the featured speaker at a public event at the St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, in Portland

Rep. Yarbrough's legislative themes have been public health and public safety. She has been a stalwart fighter to increase assistance for those incarcerated and funding for programs that provide a "second chance". In her many legislative leadership roles, she has been a stalwart champion of the disenfranchised.

Aba Gayle, of Silverton, OR, who is a nationally-known abolitionist speaker, states, "It will be an honor and privilege to have such a prominent national figure here in Oregon. Rep. Yarbrough led a successful campaign, which had bi-partisan support in the Illinois Legislature. They did the right thing, and we want similar action here in Oregon". The June 8th event is being heralded as "A NEW DAY", signifying the progress being made nationally toward death penalty repeals.

The progressive tone of the "NEW DAY" program will be heralded by the popular and entertaining Portland area group, THE AURORA CHORUS, led by director Joan Szymko. Since 1992, Aurora Chorus has honored the strength and beauty of women's lives through the fine art of choral singing. The Aurora Chorus was founded on the belief that music can be a powerful instrument of peace, locally, globally, and in the hearts of all who listen and all who sing. The voices of Aurora Chorus inspire and reflect the universal yearning for peace, which is an underlying aspect of our work toward repeal.

Other elements of the June 8th event and Rep. Yarbrough's Oregon visit will be announced in the coming weeks. The location will be St. Mary's Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1716 Davis St. in Portland's Northwest. The ecumenical event will be free and open to the public. For more information contact Ron Steiner, (503) 990-7060 or info@oadp.org.



Rep. Karen Yarbrough



*Powerful
Women
Singing
Peace*

Representative Karen A. Yarbrough (D) - 7th District



Springfield Office:

272-S Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-8120

District Office:

2305 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Broadview, IL 60155
(708) 615-1747
(708) 615-1745 FAX
Cook County

Years served: 2001 - Present

Committee assignments: Committee of the Whole; Housing & Urban Development (Chairperson); Insurance (Vice-Chairperson); Appropriations-Public Safety; Computer Technology; Environmental Health; Ex-Offender and Reentry Subcommittee (Sub-Chairperson); Pension Fund Management Procurement.

Biography: Licensed real estate broker, and the founder and president of Hathaway Insurance Agency. She has a B.A. in business administration from Chicago State University and an M.A. in inner city studies from Northeastern Illinois University. She served as president of the Maywood Chamber of Commerce for 8 years, and has been a board member of the United Way of Suburban Chicago and the Oak Park YMCA. She is also a founder of Maywood's live theater, a member of the Maywood Youth Mentoring program, and a supporter of scholarship programs.

Assistant Majority Leader, 2011 Illinois House