



NEWS

from the Illinois Senate President

EMIL JONES, JR.

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further information
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PRESIDENT JONES WILL NOT SEEK ANOTHER SENATE TERM

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois – Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Jr. said today that he will retire at the end of his current term in the Illinois Senate. President Jones is the longest serving Democratic Caucus leader since the 1970 Illinois Constitution. He has served as Senate President since 2003.

“I want to thank the many people throughout the years who have honored me by sending me to Springfield to represent them, as well as the members of the Democratic Caucus who have elected me their leader for the past 15 years. This has been a great privilege to work on behalf of the people of Illinois for over 35 years,” President Jones said.

“I want to thank my leadership team and my colleagues in the Senate who worked with me side-by-side to accomplish many things for the people of Illinois,” President Jones said. “My staff has also provided incredible support and an extraordinary effort on behalf of all of the members.”

President Jones was first elected to the Illinois House in 1972 and to the Illinois Senate in 1983. He was elected Senate Minority Leader in 1993 when Democrats had 27 members. In 2007 as Senate President he led Senate Democrats to capture 37 seats – an unprecedented gain of five seats for a veto proof majority in a non-redistricting year. The 95th General Assembly marks the first time in 70 years, and the first time since the implementation of the 1970 State Constitution, that Democrats hold a veto-proof majority in the Illinois Senate.

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Under President Jones' leadership in Fiscal Year 2008 education received the largest one-year increase in per student funding in the history of the state -- \$400 per student -- \$600 million overall in education funding. From 2003 to present, a \$196 million increase was provided to early childhood education funding.

President Jones also shepherded the passage of one of the most comprehensive reform measures of the criminal justice system in the history of the State through the Illinois Senate. Among the many substantive changes to the criminal justice system spearheaded by Senator Jones was legislation to videotape interrogations in capital cases. This single piece of legislation put Illinois at the forefront of the nation as the first state to require that interrogations in capital cases be videotaped.

Additional significant legislation that President Jones sponsored or guided through the General Assembly during his 35 year legislative career includes legislation to require state law enforcement officials to collect data on racial profiling; a bill to require equal pay for equal work; a prescription drug discount program for senior and disabled citizens; two increases in the minimum wage; legislation that directed millions of state dollars for disadvantaged public school students to classroom needs, rather than administrative needs; legislation to double the personal exemption on the state income tax in 1998 to benefit working families who had not received an increase since 1969; and an effort to secure an individual's right to choose a clinical social worker over a psychiatrist.