



NEWS

from the Illinois General Assembly

State Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins

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COLLINS ANNOUNCES NEW LOTTERY TICKET TO COMBAT INCREASING HIV RATES

*“Quality of Life” Lottery Scratch-Off will Raise Funds for HIV/AIDS treatment
and prevention*

SPRINGFIELD, IL—State Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins (D-Chicago) joined Illinois Lottery Acting Superintendent Jodie Winnett today in launching the “Quality of Life” scratch-off ticket to help fund HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. Collins was the proud sponsor of the legislation to direct more funding to at-risk communities.

“Funding for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs is vitally important given the increasing prevalence and devastating nature of this disease in our communities,” said Collins, who sponsored the legislation that created the new ticket. “It is my hope that we are able to get a handle on this deadly disease with the help of the Quality of Life program.”

Collins said she was driven to address the growing AIDS crisis after hearing about the effect the disease has had in recent years in poor and minority communities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, African-Americans account for half of all new HIV cases, even though they represent just 13 percent of the population. The statistics concerning African-American women are even more disturbing: Black women are 24 times more likely than white women to contract the disease.

The new ticket, called “Red Ribbon Cash,” will be distributed at Lottery retail locations starting on Feb. 15. Each ticket will cost \$2 and have four top prizes of \$20,000.

All net proceeds from the ticket sales will be deposited into the Quality of Life Endowment Fund, an interest-bearing account of the State Treasury. The Illinois Department of Public Health will then award grants to public and private entities in Illinois that serve populations at the greatest risk of contracting HIV.

The Quality of Life ticket is modeled after “Ticket for the Cure,” which generated more than \$3 million for breast cancer research in 2006.

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