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**FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE MELISSA CONYEARS-ERVIN**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

State Rep. Melissa Conyears-Ervin

Rep@ConyearsErvin.com

773-417-1020

## **Conyears-Ervin Working to Create New Job Opportunities for Low-Income Residents**

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.** – In an effort to provide residents from low-income areas of the state with living wage jobs, state Rep. Melissa Conyears-Ervin, D-Chicago, passed legislation out of the House on Wednesday that would create construction jobs for low-income individuals on state construction projects.

“This legislation is about providing hard working families with an opportunity to lift themselves out of poverty through gainful employment,” Conyears-Ervin said. “The state already invests in infrastructure projects, and these projects can serve a double purpose by providing people from areas of high poverty with work.”

Conyears-Ervin’s legislation, House Bill 3744, would require that all state contractors working on state projects hire employees from historically low-income areas to perform at least 10 percent of man hours on state projects. The legislation is supported by the AFL-CIO, AFSMCE 31 and Local 150 Engineers.

“It is time that the State of Illinois works to end the cycle of poverty that many of our residents live in by ensuring that state projects also provide opportunities for poverty stricken families to work for a living wage.” Conyears-Ervin said. “This simple requirement will provide an opportunity to these residents that they are currently denied because they live in areas of high poverty.”

State Rep. Melissa Conyears-Ervin is the state representative for Illinois’ 10th district. Her office can be reached at by phone at 773-417-1020 or by email at Rep@ConyearsErvin.com.

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