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Lung Health Advocates Demand: Protect Lung Health Now!

Glencoe resident Lloyd Corrigan maneuvered his scooter and oxygen tank to avoid foot traffic to meet State Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D-Evanston) outside the Illinois Senate Chamber. Corrigan, a COPD patient, was one of more than 50 lung health advocates, students and lung disease patients to travel to Springfield to be a part of Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago's 3rd Annual State Advocacy Day.

Coming off of a landmark victory to make Illinois Smoke-Free, RHAMC staff and volunteers thanked the Illinois General Assembly for passing the historic legislation. The activists also urged legislators to defend any proposals that would weaken it.

There have already been several attempts by opponents to weaken the new smoke-free law—even an attempt to repeal the entire act. “Legislators need to hear from the citizens of Illinois that the overwhelming majority of the public are thrilled with Smoke-Free Illinois and that it has a tremendous impact on public health,” says Joel Africk, RHAMC President and CEO.

Legislators were also educated on the lack of funding for respiratory illnesses and called upon to sponsor clean car and diesel clean up bills.

“Because of our committed volunteers, we met with an unprecedented 45 lawmakers including Lt. Governor Pat Quinn and Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias,” said RHAMC president and CEO, Joel Africk. “Together, we will continue to improve the lung health for all Illinoisans.”

Chicago's Lung Health
Leader Since 1906

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Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (right) discusses lung health issues with RHAMC volunteer Lloyd Corrigan.

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RHAMC volunteers, board members and staff fight for lung health with Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias (center).