



OFFICE OF THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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PRESS RELEASE

Champaign County Supports the Illinois Responsibility in Firearms Legislation (RIFL) Act

Resolution in support of the RIFL Act passed by the Champaign County Board, encouraging state lawmakers to require gun makers to share the public costs with taxpayers.

At the February 19, 2026 meeting, the Champaign County Board passed a Resolution in support of the Illinois Responsibility in Firearms Legislation (RIFL) Act. The Resolution was introduced by District 4 Board Members Elly Hanauer-Friedman and Jenny Lokshin and passed with a large majority of votes. Similar resolutions have also recently been passed in Cook and Lake counties.

"The RIFL Act will encourage firearms manufacturers to produce safer devices while addressing the financial burden brought on by gun violence in Illinois," said County Board Member Hanauer-Friedman. "Champaign County has made great strides in supporting gun violence prevention efforts through financial support to grassroots violence interruption programs and through the [County's safe storage program](#). The RIFL Act represents a statewide effort that would further our efforts to promote public safety. I am grateful to Representative Olickal and Senator Peters for putting forth this legislation and holding firearm manufacturers accountable for the harm they cause. I would also like to thank our Senator, Paul Faraci, for his co-sponsorship of the bill in Springfield."

Speaking in support of the resolution at the meeting, Urbana Chief of Police, Larry Boone said, "If the RIFL Act strengthens accountability within the firearms industry and establishes real mechanisms to deter irresponsible distribution practices then it's a meaningful step forward to reducing the flow of illegal guns. Placing greater responsibility upstream at the manufacturer and distributor level can help prevent downstream tragedy in our communities. I don't speak to you from just a piece of paper. I speak to you from my experience. If legislation also creates a funding mechanism to support victims of gun violence, without shifting the burden on taxpayers, that's another significant benefit. Public safety demands a layered strategy. Enforcement alone cannot solve gun violence prevention accountability and responsible industry practices must work in tandem."

The Resolution, No. 2026-43, passed with a majority of votes during Thursday's full board meeting. The following Board Members voted in favor of the resolutions: Arres, Carter, Fortado, Hanauer-Friedman, Locke, Lokshin, Rodriguez, Settles, Sullard, Thorsland, Vanichtheeranont, and Wiggs. Members Cowart and Rogers voted for the resolution during the previous week's Committee of the Whole meeting, but were absent for the full board vote.

This RIFL Act, sponsored by IL State Representative Kevin Olickal and Senator Robert Peters, seeks to shift the onus of costly firearm injuries from the public to the firearm manufacturing industry. Firearm manufacturers would contribute annually to a fund based on their contribution to public harm and costs. They must do so annually to obtain licensure to distribute, import, or sell in Illinois. The funds will support evidence-based violence and suicide prevention efforts, victim services, and high-risk youth intervention including increased financial support for violence prevention organizations working locally in Champaign County.

Firearms have become and continue to be the leading cause of death for children and teens, pregnant women, and means by which suicide occurs. The more than 6,700 firearm injuries, suicides, homicides, and accidental shootings annually in Illinois generates between \$18-20 Billion in direct and indirect costs. The RIFL Act would require firearm manufacturers whose products have been recovered in an injury or death in the State of Illinois to share the public costs of firearm injury with the victims, taxpayers, and Illinois. Cost benefit analysis indicates the RIFL Act will save Illinois residents \$297 Million in year one and \$520 Million by the third year.

The RIFL Act Coalition has more than 60 organizations across Illinois fighting to pass this legislation in the 104th General Assembly. To learn more, please visit the coalition website at: <https://rifl-illinois.org/>.

For more information on Champaign County's Gun Safety Program visit: <https://www.champaigncountygunsafety.org/>