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from the Illinois House of Representatives

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Beiser Bill Increasing Penalties for Attempted Terrorism Passes Committee

ALTON, IL – A bill sponsored by state Rep. Dan Beiser (D-Alton) to keep terrorists locked up passed out of a House committee on Thursday.

“Although more than a decade has passed since the tragedies of September 11, 2001, the threat of terrorism has persisted in the hearts and minds of Americans,” Beiser said. “The Illinois Terrorism Task Force has devised thorough plans to prevent acts of terrorism and keep Illinoisans safe, but criminals who intentionally use violence to instill fear must bear the full consequences of their actions.”

Currently, a prisoner may receive a one day reduction in their sentence for each day of good conduct credit earned, but offenses such as attempted murder, sexual assault and aggravated battery bar a prisoner from receiving more than 4.5 good conduct days per month. Beiser introduced House Bill 5121, which greatly restricts how much good conduct credit attempted terrorists can earn.

Beiser crafted this bill with Madison County State’s Attorney Thomas Gibbons in response to a case in which a former Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville student was found guilty of attempting to make a terrorist threat. State’s Attorney Gibbons testified with Beiser before the House Criminal Law Committee on Thursday, where the bill passed by a unanimous vote. The legislation now moves to the full House for consideration.

“The fact that criminals who have attempted to commit or threaten terrorism are granted good conduct time and may only be required to serve half of their sentence is an appalling omission in state law,” Gibbons said. “I look forward to continued collaboration with Rep. Beiser to correct this breach and bring it to the political discussion of the Illinois General Assembly.”

For more information, please contact Rep. Beiser’s constituent service office at (618) 465-5900.

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