

# News...



...*From State Representative Naomi Jakobsson*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 6, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Phone: (217) 373-5000

## **Jakobsson Denounces Governor's Announcement to Abandon Health Alliance**

*Urbana Legislator Once Again Fights for Local Jobs and Protection of  
Existing Healthcare Options*

**SPRINGFIELD, IL** – Late Wednesday evening State Rep. Naomi Jakobsson (D-Urbana) received word that Governor Pat Quinn's office had issued a press release announcing that they would not renew Health Alliance's state contract to provide health care services to state employees.

"Health Alliance is a quality, Urbana-based health care provider and they deserve answers as to why the Governor has decided unilaterally to not renew their contract," Jakobsson said. "This is unfortunately reminiscent of the Blagojevich era, when we received word that Health Alliance would no longer receive the contract to provide health insurance coverage for state employees. We came together as a community and fought it last time and I plan to lead the charge again to ensure Health Alliance continues to be able to provide the quality health coverage they have for many years."

After receiving the word about Quinn's late-night announcement, Jakobsson jumped into action and has created a community petition that she will carry door-to-door, email to anyone interested in passing it, and will make it available to download on her website at <http://www.housedem.state.il.us/members/jakobsson/index.htm>. Blagojevich threatened to remove Health Alliance's state contract in 2004 and Jakobsson worked with area residents to successfully have the decision reversed.

"The really disappointing part of this is that Health Alliance found out about the Governor's intentions to abandon their state contract from an after-hours press release," Jakobsson said. "In an era where we are calling for more transparency in state government, I would ask the Governor's office to reconsider this decision and accept feedback from the public. If anyone is interested in receiving a copy of the petition to pass amongst friends, neighbors and co-workers, please do not hesitate to call my district office, email me or download the petition from my website. This is a community issue and we once again need to band together to voice our concerns and protect local jobs."

For more information, please contact Jakobsson's constituent service office at (217) 373-5000. Jakobsson represents the 103rd District, which includes Urbana, most of Champaign and parts of Savoy.

###