

STATE REPRESENTATIVE JUDY KOEHLER

State Representative Judy Koehler serves the citizens of Illinois as a Republican Representative from the 89th District in Central Illinois.

A tenacious and determined campaigner, Judy began her political career in 1980 by overwhelmingly defeating an incumbent Republican state legislator in the primary election and going on to defeat her Democrat opponent in the 1980 general election by a huge margin. The 1982 remap pitted her against another incumbent Republican state legislator whom she defeated by a two to one margin. Since then, Rep. Koehler has been reelected by increasing margins.

Representative Koehler may be best known for her forceful opposition to the manner in which the state legislature, during the 1978 lame duck session, granted itself a huge 40%, \$8,000 pay raise. Once in office, after having campaigned strongly against the pay increase, Judy returned the \$8,000 pay raise to the State. She has continued this practice each year and has now returned a total of \$40,000 to the State of Illinois and its taxpayers.

Representative Koehler made Illinois history following the last Illinois legislative re-districting when she made the first successful challenge of an Illinois legislative remap before the Illinois Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ordered the Democrat gerrymandered legislative district drawn for her to be redone as it was more than 125 miles long and less than six miles wide in places.

In the legislature, Judy has built a reputation for fiscal responsibility and support of traditional American values with a special interest in governmental reform and integrity. Over the course of her career she has won awards and high ratings from the Taxpayers Federation of Illinois, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Illinois Manufacturer's Association, the Illinois Farm Bureau, the Illinois States Attorneys Association, the Illinois Credit Union League, the Illinois Pro-Life Coalition, the Illinois Federation of Womens Clubs, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Illinois Sheriff's Association and others.

An able and effective legislator, Rep. Koehler was able to successfully push for the passage of more than 50% of the legislation she sponsored during the 1985 Spring session of the General Assembly. A sampling of her bills include those which promote Illinois' bid for the multi-billion dollar Superconductor Super Collider project, address conservation and environmental concerns, strengthen Illinois' Criminal Code, give additional investment powers to municipalities, improve Illinois libraries, and give another weapon to law enforcement and community officials fighting the spread of pornography in Illinois. Her legislation led to changes in the regulation of state employee travel which may save Illinois taxpayers as much as two million dollars per year.

In addition, Rep. Koehler led the nearly successful fight to reform the controversial Compensation Review Board by stripping the Board of its lawmaking powers and returning it to a proper constitutional role -- an effort which won her editorial praise from more than twenty newspapers across the State.

Rep. Koehler is the Republican Spokesman of the House Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee and also serves on the Elementary and Secondary Education, Consumer Protection, State Government Administration, and Urban Redevelopment Committees.

A native of rural Lima in Adams County, Illinois, Rep. Koehler was born and raised on a family farm and has a background as a business teacher, fashion merchandiser, social worker, and businesswoman. She has an active record of participation in Illinois Republican politics, having served as a member of the House Republican Campaign Committee and as an elected delegate to the 1984 Republican National Convention where she was Illinois' representative on the Rules Committee. Her husband, Jim, is co-owner and operator of Watercott's Department Store, a family owned business for nearly 110 years. They are the parents of two children; Ted, 18, and Julie, 16. The family resides in the Illinois River town of Henry.