

Alliance Group & Senator Dan Rutherford Team up to Protect Illinois Martial Artists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PONTIAC, IL -- Roby Irby, President of the Illinois Chapter of Alliance USAMartial Arts, teamed up with Senator Dan Rutherford, who has announced that he is a candidate for the position of Illinois State Treasurer; and who recently sponsored Legislation which scales back undue regulatory burdens that were placed on amateur Illinois martial arts contests and exhibitions that do not allow full contact between participants.

Amateur martial artists will have an easier time operating in Illinois without needing to worry about undue burdens from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR). The bill (HB 786) has passed the General Assembly and now waits on the desk of the Governor for signature.

Irby says that Senator Rutherford also helped all Illinois martial arts by prompting an "emergency" stay while the Legislation was being considered by the General Assembly. This "stay" allowed all tournaments scheduled after May 15th, 2009, to continue without the fear of being "shut down" by the Boxing Commission.

This new law will help all Amateur martial arts competing in Illinois, Irby says, without needing to worry about undue burdens from Illinois government. Many tournaments which were affected, had to pay sanction fees, memberships for all competitors and were even threatened with fines by the State. Some tournaments were completely shut down which in most cases was a severe monetary loss to the sponsoring schools.

"The state went beyond the scope of its responsibilities and placed unnecessary restrictions on amateur martial arts contests and exhibitions held throughout the state," Rutherford said. "Requiring 8 year olds competing in a martial arts contest to be examined by a doctor immediately prior to and after each match and have blood tests, further this was well beyond the intended role for state regulation of amateur martial arts in Illinois," Rutherford added.

Mr. Irby says that school owners, all felt that the original regulatory burdens couldn't possibly apply to them, but they were all lost as to what could actually be done to change it? The State doesn't require these strict regulations for soccer, football, baseball, volleyball, etc. And, after all, when was the last time you saw a 75 year old or a 3 year old in a "cage match". It appeared to us, says Irby, that the original regulatory burdens put all martial arts in the category of "professional" status which couldn't possibly be since we all know that "professional" sports cannot be a part of the Olympic Program, and Taekwondo; for example, is still a full-medal Olympic Sport.

The Legislation sponsored by Senator Rutherford, clarifies the distinction between professional and amateur events. The legislation eliminates involvement by the state in events that does not include full-contact. Amateur martial arts like Jujitsu, Karate, Taekwondo, Judo, and Aikido are just a few examples of the disciplines that will be protected from unnecessary and over board rules. "There is a big difference between full contact 'toughman' contests and amateur martial arts for people of all ages," highlighted the Senator.

Roby Irby says that many school owners contacted, called, mailed and sent emails to their local State Representatives and State Senators. But, Senator Dan Rutherford was one of a very few, who took the time to listen to the concerns of Martial Artists in the Illinois and was the only one who became pro-active to solve this issue for all Illinois martial arts schools.

In our thanks to Senator Rutherford, the Alliance is asking for your support in signing the petition to help Senator Rutherford in his endeavors to become the Illinois State Treasurer. We are asking you to sign the petition and have others sign as well.

Thank you.

Directions for Circulating Dan Rutherford's Petition

1. You need not have voted in a previous Republican Primary and may even have voted in a Democrat Primary or not even have voted in a primary at all.
2. You must personally witness all signatures made on this petition.
3. You may sign your own petition.
4. You may pass this petition anywhere in the State of Illinois.
5. You may not circulate petitions for more than one political party.
6. Petitions with fewer than 20 names do count. If you are not able to fill a petition, send in a partial list. Each name counts.
7. If you learn a signature is not valid, do not worry. Bad signatures do not knock out the other good signatures or invalidate a petition. **HOWEVER**, known bad signatures should be brought to the attention of the campaign, so that they can be officially deleted. A circulator who recklessly and routinely disregards the signature gathering rules **MAY** have an entire sheet stricken even though some signatures are valid.
8. You must sign as the circulator of the petition before a Notary Public licensed in Illinois and the Notary Public must affix his/her seal or stamp. Most banks and libraries will notarize free of charge.
9. **DO NOT** number the petition page.

Directions for Signing Dan Rutherford's Petition

1. You must be a registered voter in the State of Illinois. You need not have voted in a previous Republican Primary and may even have voted in a Democrat Primary or not even voted in a primary at all.
2. You must sign your name as you are registered to vote. For example, William E Jones, not Bill Jones.
3. **DO NOT** use ditto marks for any part of an address.
4. You must use the address where you are registered to vote. Post Office boxes are not acceptable.
5. You **MAY NOT** sign petitions for candidates of more than one political party in the same election.
6. You cannot sign another member of your family's name on a petition.

> The link to the petition is: http://www.danrutherford.org/Petition_2010.pdf