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## Lawmakers: Boost victim safety

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### FROM SUBMITTED REPORTS

ROMEDEVILLE -- State Rep. Brent Hassert, R-Romeoville, along with a group of House Republican lawmakers called for new safeguards to better protect victims of domestic violence.

Following the murder of Cindy Bischof in Elmhurst, House Republicans are proposing global positioning satellite tracking of offenders who violate orders of protection.

"Following the letter of the law, Cindy Bischof filed an order of protection and moved away after an ex-boyfriend began to stalk and harass her. Tragically, her ex-boyfriend ignored the law and ended her life. I strongly believe the use of GPS tracking would keep violent offenders away from their intended victims," Hassert said.

During the press conference, Hassert demonstrated support for House Bill 6325, which creates the Cindy Bischof Domestic Violence Electronic Surveillance Law. The legislation will allow judges to determine whether GPS tracking is appropriate on a case by case basis.

"Someone who violates an order of protection is a serious threat to society and could be prevented from causing harm or death if they were being tracked by a GPS. This technology will notify police immediately if an offender gets too close for comfort," Hassert said. "Additionally, this will bring a sense of comfort to victims who have filed an order of protection."

Hassert also supports House Bill 6326 which creates a domestic violence risk assessment workshop for Illinois judges who are assigned to domestic violence cases.

"This law further compliments HB6325, as it will help judges identify aggressors who have a greater propensity for committing violent acts," Hassert said.

Hassert also will push for increased penalties for domestic violence offenders under House Bill 6327, which would make it a Class 1 felony for the unlawful purchase of a firearm when it is used in the act of domestic violence.