



OFFICE OF ILLINOIS STATE TREASURER

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Treasurer Frerichs to Hold Public Hearing in Chicago on Life Insurers That Do Not Pay Death Benefits

Kemper Corp. Invited to Attend

CHICAGO – Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs will hold a public hearing in Chicago on Wednesday, August 24 to better understand how life insurance companies avoid paying death benefits and what Illinois families can do to prevent themselves from being victimized after the death of a loved one. Since 2011, more than \$550 million in death benefits were not paid to grieving families in Illinois. Nationally, the tally exceeds \$7.4 billion.

Frerichs established a task force on unclaimed life insurance policies that includes members of the General Assembly, Citizen Action Illinois, AARP, and the NAACP. Also invited to be a member of the task force and explain this little-known practice is Chicago-based Kemper Corp. Kemper sued Frerichs to block an audit that would show if they are holding onto insurance benefits where the insured died years before and the funds are owed to beneficiaries.

The media is invited to attend the public hearing on **August 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at the **Bilandic Building, C600 at 160 N. LaSalle Street in Chicago.** **Treasurer Frerichs will arrive by 10:45 a.m. for interviews in advance of the public hearing.**

WHO: Treasurer Michael Frerichs

Rep. Robert Martwick, Sen. Jacqueline Y. Collins, Sen. Sam McCann, Sen. John Mulroe

Deborah Molina, Life Insurance Beneficiary

William McNary, Citizen Action Illinois

Ryan Gruenenfelder, AARP

Phyllis Logan, NAACP

Kemper Corp, *Invited*

WHAT: Frerichs called for the hearings to educate the public on the questionable practice of some life insurance companies not paying death benefits, to allow other insurance industry members to explain best practices in the timely payment of benefits, and to identify what additional steps might be warranted.

The hearings dovetail with legislation Frerichs prompted that now awaits Governor Bruce Rauner's signature. The legislation (HB 4633) would require life insurers to use the federal Death Master File to identify deceased policy holders whose life insurance proceeds have not been paid.

WHEN: August 24, 2016

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Treasurer Frerichs will arrive by 10:45 a.m. for interviews in advance of the public hearing.

WHERE: Bilandic Building, C600

160 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, IL

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