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Mell Engaged, Lobbies for Same Sex Marriage

Produced by [Sam Hudzik](#) on Wednesday, April 28, 2010

http://audio.wbez.org/cityroom/2010/04/cityroom_20100428_shudzik_156268_anno.mp3

Illinois State Representative Deb Mell took to the House floor Wednesday to announce she's engaged to her longtime girlfriend. Mell, whose brother-in-law is former Governor Rod Blagojevich, used her announcement to push for legalizing same-sex marriage.

Mell received a warm reception on the House floor when she rose to announce her engagement.

MELL: The day came when the words partner, girlfriend were not strong enough to describe us.

Same-sex marriage is not legally recognized in Illinois, so Mell and her fiance plan to travel next year to a state where it is, Iowa.

MELL: So while this is a happy day, and one to celebrate, it is also bittersweet.

About a half-dozen of Mell's colleagues stood up and congratulated her, including Representative Sara Feigenholtz.

FEIGENHOLTZ: It is my dream that you could celebrate this in our state, and that your relationship only fortifies my desire to make it happen.



Deb Mell. (Photo courtesy of the State of Illinois)

Representative Mell acknowledged in her remarks that Governor Pat Quinn, a fellow Democrat, does not support same-sex marriage. Quinn has said he supports civil unions.