

Supporting Better Patient Outcomes by Requiring Health Care Cultural Competency

Please Support & Co-Sponsor House Bill 2280 & Senate Bill 2427
Rep. Dagmara Avelar & Sen. Ram Villivalam

This initiative would require cultural competency training to be part of existing continuing medical education for health care professionals in Illinois. This will help health care providers stay abreast of the trends needed to meet the social and cultural needs of an evolving patient base and support better patient outcomes, particularly for those communities who have been most marginalized in health care settings.



The Context

Patient demographics in Illinois have changed rapidly in recent decades. For example, since 2000:

- The Latinx population in Illinois has increased by 50%
- The Asian American population has almost doubled
- The number of foreign-born Illinoisans has increased by nearly 20% or by over 250,000 residents
- More and more LGBTQ+ people are out and visible. Just a few years ago, there was no marriage or anti-discrimination protections statewide.

The Problem

However, Illinois still does not have a formal requirement for health care professionals to stay abreast of the trends needed to meet the social and cultural needs of an evolving patient base. This lack of updated social and cultural knowledge by health care professionals impacts communities of color, people with disabilities, immigrants with or without status, people who are intersex, people living with HIV, and LGBTQ+ people, among other populations.

The Solution

To begin to change the dynamics of healthcare marginalization, Illinois must require that health care professionals be trained in cultural competency as part of existing continuing education. This would enhance the ability of medical providers to meet social and cultural needs and support better patient outcomes for everyone.



Supporting Better Patient Outcomes by Requiring Health Care Cultural Competency

***Please Support & Co-Sponsor House Bill 2280 & Senate Bill 2427
Rep. Dagmara Avelar & Sen. Ram Villivalam***

Proponents

Access Living
AIDS Foundation Chicago
ALMA Chicago
Arab American Family Services
Center on Halsted
Equality Illinois
HANA Center
Healthy Illinois
Howard Brown Health
Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition
Illinois Nurses Association
Illinois Unidos
Lambda Legal
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
Phoenix Center
Planned Parenthood Illinois Action
Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and
Southwest Missouri
Pride Action Tank
Rainbow Cafe LGBTQ Center
SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana