

POSITIVE IMPACT: 2021 ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION



**2021 Spring Legislative Session
102nd Illinois General Assembly
January-May 2021**



**AIDS
FOUNDATION
CHICAGO**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	3
2021 Illinois State Legislative Policy Agenda and Priorities.....	4
HB158: IL Legislative Black Caucus’ Health & Human Services Omnibus Bill.....	4
Illinois Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget.....	5
HB1745: Out-Of-Pocket Prescription Drug Costs.....	6
HB711: Prior Authorization Reform Act.....	6
HB3308: Preserve Access to Telehealth.....	7
SB818: Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act.....	8
HB1063: HIV Decriminalization.....	9
SB2133: Inclusive Data Collection.....	10
HB3593: Healthy Illinois For All.....	11
HB2877: COVID-19 Emergency Eviction, Foreclosure Prevention & Housing Relief.....	12
Additional Legislative Priorities.....	13
Access to Health Care and Health Education.....	13
Budget, Taxes and the BIMP.....	13
Elections and Ethics Reform.....	14
Harm Reduction and Substance Use Disorder.....	14
Housing and Homelessness.....	14
LGBTQIA+ Rights.....	15
Maternal Mortality.....	15
Medicaid and MCOs.....	16
Mental Health.....	16
Racial Discrimination and Justice.....	16
Redistricting.....	17
Reproductive Justice.....	17
Restorative Justice.....	18
Youth and Children.....	18
Coalitions, Task Forces, and Campaigns.....	19
Virtual Advocacy Week 2021 Recap.....	20
Media Hits and Mentions.....	21
Acknowledgements and a Word of Thanks.....	26

Dear Advocates,

With a final gavel at 3:10 a.m., the 102nd Illinois General Assembly adjourned its Spring session on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Blending the traditional bill debate from legislators on the Senate and House floors with new virtual committee hearings and COVID-19 precautions, the hybrid nature of this legislative session was certainly unique.

The General Assembly tackled several complex issues facing our State including filling a \$1.3 billion budget deficit, reapportionment of state legislative following the 2020 Census, closing corporate tax loopholes, ethics reform, and distributing the state's \$8.1 billion in federal funds from President Biden's \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan.



Entering the spring legislative session, AFC developed an ambitious 2021 state government policy priority agenda that centered people living with or vulnerable to HIV while at the same time galvanized by the organization's belief that systemic racism is a public health crisis.

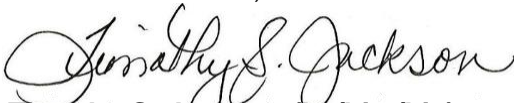
AFC is proud to have advocated for the following bills that have passed both chambers and await Gov. JB Pritzker's signature:

- [SB818](#), the Keeping Youth Safe & Healthy Act
- [HB1063](#), HIV Decriminalization
- [HB3308](#), the Telehealth Bill
- [HB1745](#), the Out-of-Pocket Prescription Drug Costs Bill
- [HB711](#), the Prior Authorization Reform Act
- [SB2133](#), the Inclusive Data Collection Bill
- [HB3493](#), the Healthy Illinois for All Bill
- [HB158](#), the IL Legislative Black Caucus' Health & Human Services Omnibus Bill (already signed)
- [HB2877](#), the COVID-19 Emergency Housing Bill (already signed)
- [SB2800 HA#3](#), Fiscal Year 2022 Illinois State Budget

Overall, AFC and its coalition partners were able to secure several impressive legislative victories during the 2021 Spring Legislative Session. Finally, **we are always mindful that the stories and voices of advocates like you make the difference always and we are eternally grateful. THANK YOU.**

[Sign up for AFC's Mobile Action Network](#) to stay plugged in with our advocacy work throughout the year!

Until there's a cure,



Timothy S. Jackson (he/him/his)
Director of Government Relations
AIDS Foundation Chicago
tjackson@aidschicago.org



2021 ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA & PRIORITIES

During the 2021 Spring Session of the 102nd Illinois General Assembly, AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC) was proud to advocate and prioritize the following pieces of legislation in partnership with and through the leadership of partner organizations and coalitions across Illinois. This list of priorities is by no means an exhaustive list and does not encompass all the policy work that the Policy & Advocacy team is currently doing on the local, state, and federal levels. This list of priorities also does not include the work that AFC is doing on potential legislation in future sessions.

Our policy agenda is organized into five key themes including: Racial Equity, Access to Health Care, Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ-IL), Queer Liberation, and Centering Community: Nothing About Us Without Us.

RACIAL EQUITY

There is no way to ensure health care access, to get to zero or to accomplish any of our work without dedicated and purposeful focus on racial equity. Black, Latinx and Indigenous communities are all disproportionately impacted by HIV. Knowing this, we must intentionally lead with race if we want to achieve the goals prescribed in the Getting to Zero Illinois plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2030.

HB158: IL LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS' HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES OMNIBUS BILL



BILL BACKGROUND: The Illinois Legislative Black Caucus (ILBC) announced a four-pillared policy agenda to address systemic racism in the state's educational systems, economic opportunity and access, criminal justice systems, and the state's health and human service systems in October 2020. HB158 was the final pillar of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' policy agenda. The remaining three ILBC pillars all passed during the Lame Duck legislative session in early January 2021.

HB158 includes language from AFC that adds sexual orientation, gender identity and disability status data collection to the State Health Assessment and the State Health Improvement Plan. This bill also provides Medicaid coverage for doulas, creates an Anti-Racism Commission, institutes a Racial Impact Note requirement for all state legislation and requires Implicit Bias training for medical providers.

“Health care is a right. If health care is not centered on the needs of the patients, we are not serving its true purpose.”

The Honorable Mattie Hunter
3rd Illinois Senate District
HB158 Senate lead sponsor

BILL SPONSORS: [Representative Camille Lilly \(D-Chicago\)](#) and [Senator Mattie Hunter \(D-Chicago\)](#)

GTZ FOCUS: Remove structural and institutional barriers that adversely affect communities experiencing disparities to ensure all people are provided high-quality, equitable care. (Goal 15)

BILL STATUS: HB158 was passed by the Illinois House on March 18, 2021 and by the Illinois Senate on March 25, 2021. This legislation was signed by Governor Pritzker on April 27, 2021.

ILLINOIS FISCAL YEAR 2022 STATE BUDGET

Facing a \$1.3 billion deficit, Illinois legislators passed a \$42.3 billion Fiscal Year 2022 budget. **AIDS Foundation Chicago, a member of the Responsible Budget Coalition, believes that the deficit must not be closed with damaging cuts to the public services the most vulnerable Illinoisans rely on during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.** To meet these challenges, AFC and the Responsible Budget Coalition supported legislation that called for the closure of corporate tax loopholes that will yield \$660 million to the state’s General Fund. **AFC also believes that passing common sense solutions to add much-needed revenue to the state’s bottom line is a necessity if we are to reverse the state’s fiscal woes.**



To realize the priorities and goals of the statewide Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ-IL) plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2030, AFC believes that the State must invest in the resources necessary to increase HIV/STI treatment and prevention services, including additional resources to address the disparities experienced by Black people living with or vulnerable to HIV. Entering the 2021 spring legislative session, AFC advocated for three funding asks to be included in the state’s FY22 budget:

- A \$2 million increase in the HIV Lump Sum
- A \$15 million increase for HIV funding focused specifically for Black communities including the African-American HIV/AIDS Response Fund (AAHARF)
- \$900,000 in new state budget funding to address the growing rates of STI diagnoses (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis).

Specific to health and human services, Illinois lawmakers passed a state budget that flat-funds most HIV-related programs when compared to FY21 including the HIV Lump Sum and the Quality of Life Fund.

Despite the state’s precarious fiscal outlook, AFC was able to secure \$15 million in new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the African American HIV/AIDS Response Act (AAHARA) to address the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and reduce the disparity of HIV/AIDS impacting African Americans and other vulnerable communities.

FY22 Appropriation	FY22 Funding Source	FY22 Appropriation Description
\$25,562,400 (no change from FY21)	Illinois General Fund	HIV Lump Sum [HIV/AIDS Education, Drugs, Services, Counseling, Testing, Outreach to Minority Populations, Counseling, Testing Referral and Partner Notification (CTRPN)]
\$1,218,000 (no change from FY21)	Illinois General Fund	Grants for the Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS and the Creation of an HIV/AIDS Service Delivery System to Reduce Racial Disparities in HIV Infection and AIDS Cases
\$1,000,000 (no change from FY21)	Quality of Life Endowment Fund	Grants and Expenses Associated with HIV/AIDS Prevention and Education
\$15,000,000 (new funding)	American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	African-American HIV/AIDS Response Act (AAHARA)

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

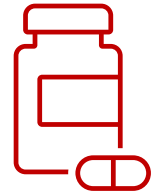
Health care is a human right and AFC believes that it must be accessible for all, including people living with or vulnerable to HIV. This year's policy agenda focused heavily on removing barriers that prevent people living with or vulnerable to HIV from accessing health care including lowering out of pocket prescription drug costs, reforming the prior authorization process, and expanding telehealth coverage.

HB1745: OUT-OF-POCKET PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS



BILL BACKGROUND: Across Illinois, patients facing extremely high out-of-pocket prescription costs are often forced to go deep into debt just to access the medication they desperately need or even worse, forgo medication because they simply cannot afford it.

The goal of HB1745 is to address these burdens felt by patients by offering more prescription drug coverage choices for Illinoisans including a requirement that 25% of insurance plans in Illinois have a fixed copay.



AFC was proud to work on this legislation with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) and the Out of Pocket Prescription Drug Costs Coalition.

BILL SPONSORS: [House Majority Leader Greg Harris \(D-Chicago\)](#) and [Senate Insurance Committee Chairman Napoleon Harris, III \(D-Harvey\)](#)

GTZ-IL FOCUS: Improve public and private health insurance coverage for all individuals experiencing disparities. (Goal 15, Strategy 59)

BILL STATUS: HB1745 passed the Illinois House on April 16, 2021 and the Illinois Senate on May 27, 2021. The legislation now heads to Governor Pritzker's desk for his signature.

HB711: PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REFORM ACT



BILL BACKGROUND: The goal of HB711 is to address patient and provider concerns about the bureaucratic delays caused by the prior authorization processes used by state-regulated health insurance plans. This legislation establishes consistent timelines so patients don't have to worry about decision-making delays and ensures prior authorization requirements are based on medical evidence and administered by qualified individuals—not government bureaucrats.

AFC was proud to partner with the Illinois Medical Society and the [Your Care Can't Wait Coalition](#) to advance this legislation.

BILL SPONSORS: [House Majority Leader Greg Harris \(D-Chicago\)](#) and [Senator Linda Holmes \(D-Aurora\)](#)

GTZ-IL FOCUS: Improve public and private health insurance coverage for all individuals experiencing disparities. (Goal 15, Strategy 59)

BILL STATUS: HB711 passed the Illinois House on April 21, 2021 and the Illinois Senate on May 27, 2021. The legislation now heads to Governor Pritzker's desk for his signature.



HB3308: PRESERVE ACCESS TO TELEHEALTH



BILL BACKGROUND: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor JB Pritzker issued an [executive order](#) that allowed for the temporary expansion of telehealth services for all Illinoisans. These expanded services allowed all Illinoisans to continue to receive the necessary medical, behavioral health, substance use care, and case management services even amid a global pandemic.

HB3308 preserves the access & affordability of telehealth services by making the temporary changes related to telehealth permanent. To improve patient health outcomes and reduce barriers to care, this legislation would ensure the following reforms, among others:

Protect Illinois Telehealth Coverage

- Provide flexibility in where patients can receive telehealth services (i.e., geographic location, type of health site).
- Grant payment and coverage parity between telehealth and in-person clinical care.
- Provide flexibility in the types of technology used to access telehealth services including any non-public facing remote communication products (i.e. Apple FaceTime, Facebook Messenger video chat, Google Hangouts video, WhatsApp video chat, Zoom, or Skype). Public-facing communication products like Facebook Live, Twitch, TikTok, and similar video communication applications would not be used for telehealth services.

AFC was proud to partner with the [Illinois Coalition to Protect Telehealth](#), the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, and other community partners to advance this critical legislation.

BILL SPONSORS: [Representative Deb Conroy \(D-Villa Park\)](#) and [Senators Mattie Hunter \(D-Chicago\)](#) and [Napoleon Harris, III \(D-Harvey\)](#)

GTZ-IL FOCUS: Remove structural and institutional barriers that adversely affect communities experiencing disparities to ensure all people are provided high-quality, equitable care. (Goal 15)

BILL STATUS: HB3308 was adopted by the Illinois Senate on May 29, 2021 and the Illinois House on May 30, 2021. This legislation will now head to Governor Pritzker for his signature.



“For some people, I find that because of specific mental health issues, like depression, they really can’t get out of bed to actually go to therapy,” said Milani, an ambassador for the Centers For Disease Control (CDC) Let’s End HIV Together campaign. “But they know that they [now] have an option of not getting out of bed and still being able to participate through Zoom.”
#telehealth

GETTING TO ZERO ILLINOIS (GTZ-IL)



We can get to zero new HIV transmissions and zero people living with HIV out of care. But we can only fulfill the goals and priorities of the [Getting to Zero Illinois plan](#) if we address the barriers to healthcare for people living with or vulnerable to HIV. For the Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ communities most impacted by HIV, those barriers are buoyed by stigma, discrimination, and criminalization. Getting to zero mandates that we address these barriers and challenges head on.

SB818: KEEPING YOUTH SAFE & HEALTHY ACT



BILL BACKGROUND: The Illinois Healthy Youth Act coalition (led by ACLU of Illinois and AFC) worked with the REACH Act coalition (led by Planned Parenthood Illinois and Equality Illinois) to combine both bills into one comprehensive piece of legislation.

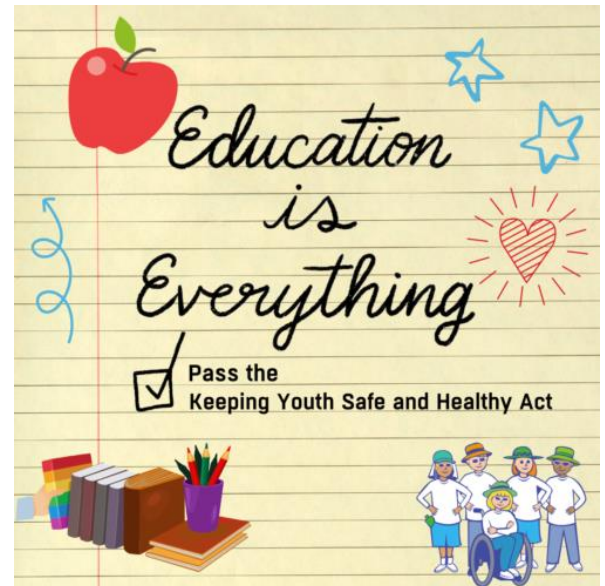
SB818 establishes the requirements for public and charter schools that decide to teach comprehensive personal health and safety education in grades K-5 and comprehensive sexual health education in grades 6-12 so that it is:

- age and developmentally appropriate
- medically accurate
- complete
- culturally appropriate
- inclusive (inclusion of marginalized communities)
- trauma informed (takes into consideration how adverse life experiences may potentially influence a person's well-being and decision making)

BILL SPONSORS: [Senator Ram Villavalam \(D-Chicago\)](#) and [Representative Camille Lilly \(D-Chicago\)](#)

GTZ-IL FOCUS: Ensure all public schools across Illinois provide comprehensive, evidence-based sexual health education and services, including appropriate discussion of all sexual and gender identities and behaviors. (Goal 16, Strategy 54)

BILL STATUS: SB818 was passed in the Illinois Senate on May 20, 2021 and the Illinois House on May 28, 2021. This legislation will now head to Governor Pritzker's desk for his signature.



“... this education can be highly effective in supporting positive health outcomes and youth. It's about young people being able to get the information to keep them safe and keep them healthy.”

The Honorable Camille Lilly (D-Chicago)
78th Illinois House District
SB818 House lead sponsor

HB1063: HIV DECRIMINALIZATION



BILL BACKGROUND: HB1063 repeals the state’s harmful and outdated law “Criminal Transmission of HIV” statute ([720 ILCS 5/12-5.01](#)) that criminalizes people living with HIV because it works against public health, increases stigma and discrimination, and does not align with current science.

House Bill 1063 ends criminal penalties against PLWH by amending the Criminal Code of 2012, repeals the statute creating the offense of criminal transmission of HIV, and makes conforming changes in the AIDS Confidentiality Act, the Illinois Sexually Transmissible Disease Control Act, the Illinois Vehicle Code, the Criminal Code of 2012, and the Unified Code of Corrections.

AFC, a founding member and leading organization in the [Illinois HIV Action Coalition](#), was proud to work with coalition partners to advance this legislation.



BILL SPONSORS: [Representative Carol Ammons \(D-Urbana\)](#) and [Senator Robert Peters \(D-Chicago\)](#)

GTZ-IL FOCUS: Reduce HIV-related stigma and the negative impact of HIV criminalization by examining state legislation that currently criminalizes HIV exposure and transmission. (Goal 16, Strategy 57)

BILL STATUS: HB1063 was passed in the Illinois House on April 14, 2021 and the Illinois Senate on May 25, 2021. This legislation now heads to Governor Pritzker’s desk for his signature.



“[HB1063] will repeal the provisions that criminalize HIV transmission and provides an effective way to make it a public health crisis, as it should always have been.”

**The Honorable Carol Ammons
(D-Urbana)
103rd Illinois House District
HB1063 House lead sponsor**



“Having HIV is a health care concern, not a crime. People living with HIV don’t need to worry about facing criminal charges for simply living.”

**The Honorable Robert Peters
(D-Chicago)
13th Illinois Senate District
HB1063 Senate lead sponsor**

QUEER LIBERATION

The LGBTQ+ community has been disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic from the start – and much of the harm caused to people living with HIV is rooted in transphobia and homophobia. We acknowledge the important work queer community members have made in the HIV epidemic and how our work is necessarily tied to queer liberation.



SB2133: INCLUSIVE DATA COLLECTION



BILL BACKGROUND: The LGBTQ+ community is diverse with unique and significant health disparities and barriers to healthcare that often lead to poor outcomes across behavioral and physical health.

SB2133 requires ten state agencies to collect critical demographic data based on age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and primary or preferred language of individuals who utilize major services administered by state government. SB 2133 builds upon the existing requirement in the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' educational equity pillar ([Illinois Public Act 101-0654](#)) that requires state agencies report out on racial and ethnicity demographic data.

AFC and Pride Action Tank were proud to partner with the Illinois SOGI Data Collection Task Force and community partners to advance this legislation including Howard Brown Health, Equality Illinois, Center on Halsted, Sage, and Northwestern's Evaluation, Data Integration, and Technical Assistance (EDIT) program.



BILL SPONSORS: [Senator Mike Simmons \(D-Chicago\)](#) and [House Majority Leader Greg Harris \(D-Chicago\)](#), two proud members of the LGBTQ+ community

GTZ-IL FOCUS: The data are clear: grave disparities exist in the HIV epidemic. These disparities map to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and a person's other lived experiences. We must use data to define which communities face the greatest disparities and in what context. With this information, we can set tangible and aggressive targets. (Equity Focus Area)

BILL STATUS: SB2133 was passed in the Illinois Senate on April 29, 2021 and in the Illinois House on May 27, 2021. This legislation now heads to Governor Pritzker's desk for his signature.



“Any pandemic relief and recovery must be rooted in an understanding of what disparities got us here. This vote today is a declaration to LGBTQIA+ communities that we see them and are working for a recovery that includes them.”

The Honorable Mike Simmons (D-Chicago)
7th Illinois Senate District
SB2133 Senate lead sponsor

CENTERING COMMUNITY

From the early days of the HIV epidemic and the crafting of the [Denver Principles](#), the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV has been absolutely critical to our collective advocacy. We are honored to center the marginalized communities impacted by the intersectional crises of HIV, systemic racism, housing instability, lack of access to healthcare, the carceral system and other social determinants of health in all our work.

**NOTHING ABOUT US,
WITHOUT US**

HB3493, HEALTHY ILLINOIS FOR ALL



BILL BACKGROUND: As originally drafted, HB3493 would have extended Medicaid eligibility to all low-income Illinois residents ages 19 through 64 with household incomes of up to 138% Federal Poverty Level (\$17,236/year for an individual) regardless of their immigration status.

AFC, a steering committee member of the [Healthy Illinois campaign](#), is proud to work alongside Healthy Illinois and its partner organizations to ensure that all Illinoisans are able to access quality, affordable health care coverage for all Illinois residents.

BILL SPONSORS: [Representative Delia Ramirez \(D-Chicago\)](#) and [Senator Omar Aquino \(D-Chicago\)](#)



GTZ-IL FOCUS: Improve public and private health insurance coverage for all individuals experiencing disparities. (Goal 15, Strategy 49)

BILL STATUS: Though it did not advance out of the House Appropriations-Human Services Committee, amended language from the legislation was included in the BIMP (Budget Implementation bill), [SB2017 HA#2](#). Specifically, this amended language provides medical coverage for all adults regardless of immigration status ages 55-64 with incomes at or below 138% FPL. The BIMP bill, including the amended language, passed the IL General Assembly on May 31, 2021.

“[Healthy Illinois for All] has meant life or a second chance at life for many people. But it is also a reminder to me that we still have a long way to go in making health care truly a human right in the state and furthermore, the nation.”

The Honorable Delia Ramirez (D-Chicago)
4th Illinois House District
HB2877 House lead sponsor



HB2877: COVID-19 EMERGENCY EVICTION, FORECLOSURE PREVENTION, & HOUSING RELIEF



BILL BACKGROUND: Housing is healthcare, especially amid a global pandemic. With so many Illinoisans experiencing job instability and income due to COVID-19, the General Assembly must implement necessary protections, such as foreclosure moratoriums and emergency rental assistance, to ensure Illinoisans can stabilize their housing situation for the duration of the pandemic and beyond.

Specifically, HB2877 enacts the following reforms:

- A temporary COVID-19 emergency homeowner and small landlord foreclosure and eviction moratorium.
- Equitable access to the federally funded emergency rental assistance program for the communities most impacted by the pandemic.
- The sealing of eviction records that act as a barrier to permanent housing.



AFC and our supporting organization, the [Center for Housing and Health \(CHH\)](#), are proud to partner with Housing Action Illinois, the Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA) and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) to advance this critical legislation.



BILL SPONSORS: [Representative Delia Ramirez \(D-Chicago\)](#) and [Senator Omar Aquino \(D-Chicago\)](#)

GTZ-IL FOCUS: Increase housing and supportive services opportunities for people living with or vulnerable to HIV who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability to remove barriers to antiretroviral therapy (ART) use for HIV treatment and PrEP. (Goal 9)

BILL STATUS: HB2877 was passed in the Illinois House on March 18, 2021 and the Illinois Senate on April 29, 2021. This important legislation was signed by Governor Pritzker on May 17, 2021.



“We know once the moratoriums are lifted, there are going to be a lot of eviction requests out there. We are trying to stabilize our economy and communities that cannot afford another collapse of the housing market.”

The Honorable Omar Aquino (D-Chicago)
2nd Illinois Senate District
HB2877 Senate lead sponsor

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Although AFC has an established list of policy priorities for the 102nd spring session of the Illinois General Assembly, we were also proud to track and/or support additional pieces of legislation that uplifts and affirms marginalized communities across Illinois including people living with or vulnerable to HIV.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE & HEALTH EDUCATION

HB119: Illinois Drug Reuse Opportunity Program/I-DROP (Rep. W. Guzzardi & Sen. K. Villa)

Creates the Illinois Drug Reuse Opportunity Program that allows donors to donate drugs to recipients and allows recipients to receive donated drugs from donors.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HB201: Inclusion of E-Cigarettes in Smoke Free Illinois (Rep. L. Ford)

Prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes, including supposed non-nicotine e-cigarettes, that will protect against secondhand exposure to nicotine and other potentially harmful chemicals.

BILL STATUS: Failed to advance in the Illinois House

HB1779: Biomarker Testing (Rep. Flowers & Sen. Munoz)

Expands appropriate coverage of biomarker testing for state-regulated public and private insurance plans.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

SB1840: Health Equity & Access to Care (Sen. M. Hunter & Rep. C. Lilly)

Prioritizes health equity and access to care by requiring certain patient demographics and other data be included in community benefits reports to measure progress toward equity. This legislation also revises the hospital charity care/financial assistance process to remove barriers for uninsured patients to access care.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and Illinois House

BUDGET, TAXES, & THE BIMP

HB2792/SB2184: Earned Income Tax Credit (Rep. C. Ammons & Sen. E. Sims)

Expanding the popular state Earned Income Credit (EIC) is a practical way to provide relief to more low-income and middle-class people who are currently left out of the state EIC and federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

BILL STATUS: Both bills failed to advance in the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

SB2017, HA#2: Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Implementation Plan (Sen. T. Cullerton & Rep. G. Harris)

The FY22 Budget Implementation Plan, or the BIMP, is legislation that provides guidance on how state agencies and departments are to spend appropriated money. The FY22 BIMP includes amended language from the Healthy Illinois for All legislation, HB3493, that includes Medicaid coverage to undocumented seniors ages 55 to 64 with income at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Line.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and Illinois House

SB2800, HA#3: Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget & Capital Improvement Plan (Sen. D. Harmon, Rep. G. Harris)

This bill provides appropriations for all state FY22 funding of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. This bill also provides appropriations for the FY22 Capital Improvement Plan.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and Illinois House

ELECTIONS & ETHICS REFORM

SB539: Ethics Reform Omnibus (Sen. A. Gillespie & Rep. K. Burke)

Ban public officials from lobbying other units of government, bans legislators and executive branch officials from lobbying for six months after leaving office or the conclusion of their term, and bans fundraisers on days before and after session. The legislation also lets the Legislative Inspector General to initiate investigations without approval from the Legislative Ethics Commission.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

SB825: Elections Omnibus (Sen. D. Harmon & Rep. M. West)

Makes several elections-related reforms including making Election Day a holiday, creates permanent vote centers, expands vote by mail, adds transparency to the process of filling vacant General Assembly seats, moves the 2022 primary elections to June 28, 2022, and lowers the signature requirements for ballot access.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HARM REDUCTION & SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

HB3447: Reducing Barriers to Recovery (Rep. C. Ammons & Sen. M. Bush)

Strengthens communities across Illinois by elevating a public health approach to reducing the harms associated with drug use, replacing the failed strategy of punishment and incarceration.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois House but failed to advance in the Illinois Senate

HB110: Safer Consumption Sites/Overdose Prevention (Rep. L. Ford)

Allows the Illinois Department of Public Health to set guidelines and regulatory infrastructure for the oversight of safe consumption services and establishes minimum standards that a provider would have to meet to obtain licensure by the Department of Public Health.

BILL STATUS: Failed to advance in the Illinois House

HB3445: Alex's Law: Opioid Overdose Reduction Act (Rep. J. Yang Rohr & Sen. L. Ellman)

In cases concerning overdose and limited immunity, provides that specified violations must not serve as the sole basis of a violation of parole, mandatory supervised release, probation, conditional discharge, a person's pretrial release, or furlough, or any seizure of property under any State law authorizing civil forfeiture so long as the evidence for the violation was acquired as a result of the person seeking or obtaining emergency medical assistance in the event of an overdose.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

HB2621 SA3: Affordable Housing Omnibus Bill (Sen. M. Hunter & Rep. S. Harper)

Creates a COVID-19 Affordable Housing Grant Program to provide gap financing for projects receiving federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and extends Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

HB3878: Increase Funding for Rental Housing Support Program (Rep. C. Tarver & Sen. O. Aquino)

The Rental Housing Support Program, created in 2005, is funding through a \$9 state fee to record real estate-related transaction. This legislation will increase the fee to \$18 and will significantly expand the number of people served.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois House but failed to advance in the Illinois Senate

SB190: HOUSE Liaisons in Higher Education (Sen. Glowiak-Hilton & Rep. M. West)

Asks Illinois colleges and universities to designate a HOUSE (Housing and Opportunities that are Useful for Students' Excellence) liaison for students experiencing homelessness and/or are students in care.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS**HB9: Birth Certificate Change (Rep. J. Gong-Gershowitz & Sen. L. Fine)**

Allows for State Registrar of Vital Records to establish a new certificate of birth after receipt of a statement signed by the person in which the person attests to making the request for the purpose of affirming the person's gender identity or intersex condition and that the sex designation on the person's certificate of birth should therefore be changed.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois House, but failed vote verification in the Illinois Senate. Bill has been placed on the order of postponed consideration and can be advanced during Fall Veto Session

HB1290: Restoration of Benefits for LGBTQ Veterans (Rep. J. Mason & Sen. T. Cullerton)

Allows former military members who received an Other than Honorable (OTH) discharge for service-related mental health issues, traumatic brain injuries, sexual assault or because of their sexual orientation/gender identity.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and Illinois Senate

HB2542: Remove the Bar for Name Changes (Rep. K. Cassidy & Sen. R. Peters)

Helps trans and gender-expansive people and survivors of human trafficking live safer and more authentic lives by removing the ten-year waiting period for people with felony convictions and removing the lifetime ban for people with identity theft convictions.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois House but failed to advance in the Illinois Senate

HB2590: Marriage Certificate Name Changes (Rep. A. Williams & Sen. S. Feigenholtz)

Enables County Clerks to issue updated marriage certificates following documentation of a legal name change. These updated certificates will be free of any gender identifying language.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and Illinois Senate

HB3195: All-Gender Multiple Occupancy Bathrooms (Rep. K. Stuart & Sen. M. Bush)

Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any multiple-occupancy restroom may be identified as an all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom and designated for use by any person of any gender. In addition, an all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom must include specified signage, stall dividers, and partitions for urinals. Provides that any multiple-occupancy restroom may be converted into an all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois House but failed to advance in the Illinois Senate

MATERNAL MORTALITY**HB354: Medicaid Reimbursement for Doula and Home Visiting Services (Rep. L. Greenwood)**

Expands the Illinois program to include coverage for doula services and evidence-based home visiting services for individuals who qualify for medical assistance, effective July 1, 2022.

BILL STATUS: The bill language was included in the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus' Health and Human Services omnibus bill, HB158, that was signed by Governor Pritzker on April 27, 2021.

SB967: Improving Health Care for Pregnant and Postpartum Individuals
(Sen. Castro & Rep. L. Greenwood)

Implements several reforms including extending Medicaid coverage for perinatal depression screenings for 12 months postpartum, expanding Medicaid coverage for family planning services to individuals whose income is at or below 208% of the federal poverty level, and allows Medicaid providers to receive Medicaid reimbursement for a postpartum visit that is separate from Medicaid reimbursement for prenatal care and labor and delivery services.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

MEDICAID & MCOs

SB2294: Medicaid Omnibus (Sen. A. Gillespie & Rep. G. Harris)

Reforms to the state's medical assistance program including the creation of a comprehensive Statewide Behavioral Health Strategy, Inpatient hospitalization for opioid-related overdose or withdrawal patients, Payments for long-acting injectable medications for mental health or substance use disorders, and Medicaid COVID-19 public health emergency Rules among others.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

MENTAL HEALTH

HB2595: Mental Health Medical Necessity (Rep. D. Conroy & Sen. L. Fine)

Amends the Illinois Insurance Code to ensure that all Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) and commercial insurer medical necessity determinations concerning mental health and substance use disorders are fully consistent with generally accepted standards of care.

BILL STATUS: Passed by the Illinois House and Illinois Senate

HB2784: Community Emergency Services and Supports Act (Rep. K. Cassidy & Sen. R. Peters)

Creates 911 response option separate from law enforcement for mental and behavioral health emergencies everywhere an ambulance service exists and requires responders to use appropriate de-escalation techniques and then connect callers to their existing care providers or to available community services and supports.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HB2944 HA1/SB347 SA1: Alternatives to Crisis Escalation (ACE) Act (Rep. B. Hernandez & Sen. R. Peters)

Allows for universal access to these crisis services so anyone can utilize them regardless, expands mobile crisis response services for non-emergent mental health and substance crises through a 988 centralized crisis line.

BILL STATUS: This legislation failed to advance in either the Illinois House or Illinois Senate

SB2314: Community Health Rule & Regulatory Modernization Act (Sen. S. Feigenholtz)

Prioritizes treatment access, improves access to high quality care, and removes administrative barriers to growing treatment for serious mental illnesses.

BILL STATUS: Failed to advance in the Illinois Senate

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION & JUSTICE

SB817: The Jett Hawkins Law (Sen. M. Simmons & Rep. G. Harris)

Provides that an elementary or secondary school registering with the State Board of Education must provide assurances that the school will not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

SB1847: CROWN Act (Sen. M. Hunter & Rep. S. Harper)

The Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural (CROWN) Hair Act prohibits the discrimination of traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

SB1965: Juneteenth as a State Holiday (Sen. K. Lightford & Rep. L. Ford)

Provides that Juneteenth National Freedom Day shall be observed on June 19 of each year as a holiday throughout the State (currently, not a holiday and is observed on the third Saturday of June of each year).

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

REDISTRICTING

SB2661: Cook County Board of Review Redistricting Act of 2021 (Sen. D. Harmon & Rep. E. Hernandez)

Redistricts Cook County for election of Cook County Board of Review Commissioners

[New Cook County Board of Review Districts Map](#)

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

SB642: Judicial Districts Act of 2021 (Sen. D. Harmon & Rep. C. Tarver, II)

Provides for the specific counties to be included in the second, third, fourth, and fifth judicial districts.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

HB2777: General Assembly Redistricting Act of 2021 (Sen. D. Harmon & Rep. E. Hernandez)

Redistricts the Legislative Districts (for election of Senators) and the Representative Districts (for election of Representatives).

[New State House Districts Map](#), [New State Senate Districts Map](#)

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House

SR326: Senate Redistricting Resolution (Sen. D. Harmon)

Sets forth redistricting principles, the hearing process, and summaries of Legislative Districts with respect to the 2021 General Assembly Redistricting Plan.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois Senate

HR359: General Assembly Redistricting Summary (Rep. E. Hernandez)

Sets forth redistricting principles, the hearing process, and summaries of Representative Districts with respect to the 2021 General Assembly Redistricting Plan.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Illinois House

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

HB135: Pharmacists Prescribing Hormonal Contraceptives (Rep. M. Mussman & Sen. M. Bush)

Allows pharmacists licensed in Illinois to prescribe hormonal contraceptives (i.e. birth control).

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

SB2190: Repeal Harmful Barriers to Reproductive Healthcare for Youth (Sen. E. Sims)

This legislation repeals the Parental Notice of Abortion Act (PNA), which requires a healthcare provider to notify an adult family member (parent, grandparent, step-parent living in the home, or legal guardian) at least 48 hours prior to performing an abortion for a patient under 18.

BILL STATUS: Failed to advance in the Illinois Senate

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

HB88: Repeal TANF Eligibility Drug Offense Ban (Rep. M. Flowers, Sen. P. Van Pelt)

Provides that persons shall not be determined ineligible for cash assistance provided under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program based upon a conviction for any drug-related felony under State or federal law.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HB2790: Public Defender Representation of Non-Immigrants in Immigration Court (Rep. J. Gong-Gershowitz & Sen. O. Aquino)

In counties with 3,000,000 or more people, gives the Public Defender the discretion to represent noncitizens in immigration court.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HB3443: SAFE-T Act Clean-up (Rep. J. Slaughter & Sen. E. Sims)

This legislation clarifies key provisions in the IL Legislative Black Caucus' Criminal Justice bill concerning chokeholds, mental health crisis, the military equipment surplus program, use of force, body-worn cameras, and other areas of interest.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HB3587: Resentencing Task Force Act (Rep. J. Slaughter & Sen. R. Peters)

Creates a task force to study retroactive sentencing and ways to reduce Illinois' prison population and identify ways to consider resentencing motions filed by incarcerated people, state's attorneys, IDOC, & judges.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HB3665: Joe Coleman Medical Release Act (Rep. W. Guzzardi & Sen. J. Connor)

Creates a simple, expedited process for terminally ill and mentally incapacitated people to be released to Medicaid-approved outside care facilities able to meet their needs.

BILL STATUS: Passed by the Illinois House and Senate

SB828: Voting in Prison (Sen. M. Simmons & Rep. L. Ford)

Restores the voter's right to vote post-conviction that will increase the ability for reintegration, reduce recidivism, and make communities safer.

BILL STATUS: Passed the Senate but failed to advance in the Illinois House

YOUTH & CHILDREN

HB3119: Illinois' Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) Reforms (Rep. R. Gabel)

This legislation implements a number of reforms to the state's CHIP including making permanent the suspension of separate CHIP premiums and copayments, adds non-emergency transportation as a covered service for separate CHIP children, adds more children to managed care coverage, and also continues coverage during the COVID Public Health Emergency for non-citizen post-partum women.

BILL STATUS: Bill language was added to the SS2294, Medicaid Omnibus bill, that passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

HB3793: DCFS Parent/Child Contact Ban (Rep. D. Ramirez & Sen. J. Morrison)

Clarifies that when the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) immediately restricts or terminates parent-child contact or sibling contacts, that it be based on credible evidence that the continuation of family contact would result in an immediate threat to the child's health, safety, and welfare.

BILL STATUS: Passed both the Illinois House and the Illinois Senate

SB2122: Prohibit Deceptive Interrogation Tactics of Minors (Sen. R. Peters & Rep. J. Slaughter)
 Prohibits the use of deceptive tactics when a minor in custody is being interrogated by a member of law enforcement.
BILL STATUS: **Passed both the Illinois Senate and the Illinois House**

COALITIONS, TASK FORCES, & CAMPAIGNS

AFC is proud to partner with several coalitions, task forces and campaigns to advance legislation in Springfield that affirms and assists people living with or vulnerable to HIV including:

- Contract Administrators
- Criminal Justice Advocates
- [Health is Health Coalition](#)
- [Healthy Illinois Campaign](#)
- [Healthy Minds, Healthy Lives Coalition](#)
- [Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health](#)
- [Illinois Coalition to Protect Telehealth](#)
- Illinois Harm Reduction & Recovery Coalition
- Illinois Health Advocates
- [Illinois Healthy Youth Act Coalition](#)
- [Illinois HIV Action Alliance](#)
- [Illinois Housing Advocates](#)
- Illinois SOGI Data Collection Task Force
- Medical Advisory Group
- Out of Pocket Prescription Costs Coalition
- [Protect Our Care Illinois Coalition](#)
- Reducing Barriers to Recovery Coalition
- [Responsible Budget Coalition](#)
- Service Providers Council
- [Supportive Housing Providers Association \(SHPA\) Legislative Committee](#)
- [West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force](#)
- [Your Care Can't Wait Coalition](#)



VIRTUAL ADVOCACY WEEK 2021 RECAP



Each year, AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC) organizes a statewide day of action at the State Capitol in Springfield, connecting advocates with their state legislators about issues affecting people living with and vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Due to COVID-19, the AFC Policy and Advocacy team organized an all-virtual Advocacy Week April 19-23, 2021 with opportunities to plug into advocacy over five days instead of one!

During each day during Advocacy Week 2021, we highlighted specific themes that prominently featured throughout our policy priorities and our work year-round: **Racial Equity, Access to Health Care, Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ-IL), Queer Liberation, and Centering Community: Nothing About Us Without Us.** Advocacy Week 2021 featured Zoom webinars centering health equity, community talkbacks via social media, legislator meetings, and calls to action via our [Policy & Advocacy Center](#).

For more information, please review the 2021 Advocacy Week toolkit here: <https://bit.ly/3c3Fryp>.

ADVOCACY WEEK BY THE NUMBERS

Data gathered from the Mobile Action Network



14
Scheduled
Legislator
Meetings



325
Emails to
legislators



3
Zoom
Webinars

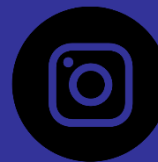


28
Campaign
Shares



12
Tweets to
Legislators

31
Campaign
Shares



2
Community
Talkbacks

POLICY COMMS: MEDIA HITS & MENTIONS

Communicating accurate information about proposed legislation is a key component of the legislative process. This is done in a myriad of avenues whether leveraging traditional media opportunities (i.e. press releases, newspaper articles) or through using social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). Listed below are media hits and mentions for each of AIDS Foundation Chicago's 2021 state legislative policy priorities.

SB818: KEEPING YOUTH SAFE & HEALTHY ACT

- [SB818 Legislative Factsheet](#)
- [Advocates join to strengthen bill on K-12 health, safety education](#). April 29, 2021. (Windy City Times)
- [It's Just a Bill](#). April 29, 2021. (Capitol Fax)
- [Senate Committee Advances Bills on Sex Ed, Decriminalizing HIV Transmission](#). May 5, 2021. (Capitol News Illinois)
- [CAPITOL RECAP: Pritzker announces plans for broader reopening](#). May 12, 2021. (The Galena Gazette)
- [Changes to sex education proposed in Illinois bill](#). May 13, 2021. (WAND17)
- [After intense debate, the Illinois Senate passes proposal that updates sex education courses in schools](#). May 20, 2021. (WSIL 3 News)
- [Sex Education Standard Update Bill Advances Out of State Senate Along Party Lines](#). May 20, 2021. (WGLT.org)
- [Comprehensive sex education bill passes Illinois Senate, will be considered by House](#). May 21, 2021. (The State Journal-Register)
- [North Side Democrat accuses downstate Republican of making remarks intended to 'dehumanize' LGBTQ community](#). May 21, 2021. (Chicago Sun-Times)
- [Senate Passes Comprehensive Sex Education Bill](#). May 24, 2021. (WCSJNews.com)
- [GOP Lawmakers Say 'National Sex Education Standards' Are Too Explicit for Illinois Schools](#). May 27, 2021. (Illinois Newsroom)
- [Sex education legislation passes House, will head to Pritzker](#). May 28, 2021. (Daily Journal)
- [Standardization of sex education and lead pipe removal bill in Springfield](#). May 28, 2021. (Illinois News Live)
- [\[PRESS RELEASE\]: Senators Villivalam and Villanueva commend Illinois Senate for passage of the Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act](#). May 21, 2021. (AIDS Foundation Chicago)

HB1745: OUT OF POCKET PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

- [HB1745 Legislative Factsheet](#)
- [Springfield Update](#). February 26, 2021 (House Majority Leader Greg Harris' 2021 Legislative Agenda)
- [Affordable Drug Manufacturing Act would help lower prescription drug prices in Illinois](#). March 23, 2021 (State of Reform)
- [House committee advances bills addressing prescription drugs](#). March 25, 2021. (WSIL 3 News)
- [Coalition Letter to Governor Pritzker](#). May 26, 2021. (Healthy Illinois Campaign)

HB1063: HIV DECRIMINALIZATION

- **IHAA Press Releases:**
 - [HB1063 Legislative Factsheet](#)

- [Advocates and Legislators Introduce Bill to Decriminalize HIV in Illinois](#). February 23, 2021. (Illinois HIV Action Alliance)
- [Illinois HIV Action Alliance Applauds Approval of House Bill 1063 HA1 – Decriminalization of HIV – in Judiciary-Criminal Committee](#). April 13, 2021. (Illinois HIV Action Alliance)
- [IHAA Commends the Illinois House of Representatives for Voting to End Criminalization of HIV](#). April 14, 2021. (Illinois HIV Action Alliance)
- [IL HIV Action Alliance Celebrates Approval of HB 1063-Decriminalization of HIV-in Senate Executive Committee](#). May 5, 2021. (Illinois HIV Action Alliance)
- [IL HIV Action Alliance Celebrates Illinois Senate Voting to End Criminal Penalties Against People Living with HIV](#). May 25, 2021. (Illinois HIV Action Alliance)
- **Newspaper & Online Articles:**
 - [Lawmaker wants to decriminalize HIV transmission](#). February 25, 2021. (WICS/WRSP)
 - [HIV decriminalization bill filed in Illinois General Assembly](#). February 26, 2021. (Illinois Eagle)
 - [US: Bill introduced in Illinois to reform HIV criminalization law](#). February 26, 2021. (HIV Justice Network)
 - [Three States See Movement to Modernize HIV Crime Laws](#). March 8, 2021. (POZ Magazine/poz.com)
 - [Decriminalizing HIV - Bill Aims to Lead with Science, Not Fear](#). March 25, 2021. (Illinois Times)
 - [Republican Legislators Take Measured Stances in Bloomington-Normal LGBTQ Town Hall](#). March 30, 2021. (NPR/WGLT)
 - [Illinois HIV Decriminalization Bill Advances](#). April 2021. (Illinois News Live)
 - [UPDATED: House votes to decriminalize HIV transmission](#). April 14, 2021. (Capitol News Illinois)
 - [Illinois law aimed at preventing people with HIV from transmitting the virus has been criticized as unfair and unscientific. Activists are pushing for a full repeal](#). April 17, 2021 (Chicago Tribune)
 - [Illinois HIV Decriminalization Bill Advances](#). April 20, 2021. (NPR Illinois)
 - [Illinois Lawmakers Move Forward with Repeal of HIV Law](#). April 21, 2021. (POZ Magazine/poz.com)
 - [Virginia Proves HIV Criminalization Laws Are Harder to Repeal Than They Should Be](#). April 21, 2021. (The Body)
 - [Advocacy Groups Say HIV Criminalization Law Hurts Public Health](#). April 28, 2021 (WCBU 89.9/WGLT/Peoria Public Radio)
 - [Effort to decriminalize HIV passes Illinois House, moves on to Senate](#). May 3, 2021. (The Center Square Illinois)
 - [Peters advances legislation that would decriminalize HIV transmission](#). May 5, 2021. (Illinois Senate)
 - [Senate Committee Advances Bills on Sex Ed, Decriminalizing HIV Transmission](#). May 5, 2021. (Capitol News Illinois)
 - [Bill aims to decriminalize HIV transmission in Illinois](#). May 10, 2021. (WICS/WRSP)
 - [CAPITOL RECAP: Pritzker announces plans for broader reopening](#). May 12, 2021. (The Galena Gazette)
 - [Chicago Sun-Times Editorial: Good riddance to a bad Illinois law that punishes people for being HIV-positive](#). May 18, 2021. (Chicago Sun-Times)
 - [HIV decriminalization bill will encourage more people to get tested, advocate says](#). May 19, 2021. (Central Illinois Proud)
 - [Illinois legislators approve bill that would decriminalize HIV transmission](#). May 25, 2021. (Chicago Tribune)

- [Bills decriminalizing HIV transmission, requiring media literacy education pass Senate](#). May 25, 2021. (Capitol News Illinois)
- [Illinois finally ends HIV criminalization; HIV-transfer was Class 2 felony](#). May 25, 2021. (Chicago Pride)
- [Two States Take Steps to Reform Outdated HIV Laws](#). May 27, 2021. (HIV Plus Magazine)
- **Blogs & Videos:**
 - [Video: Decriminalizing HIV in Illinois](#). March 1, 2021. (Legal Council for Health Justice)
 - [Howard Brown supports bill to decriminalize HIV in Illinois](#). March 4, 2021. (Howard Brown Health)
 - [It's Just a Bill](#). April 15, 2021. (Capitol Fax blog)
 - [It's Just a Bill](#). May 5, 2021. (Capitol Fax blog)
 - [HIV is Not a Crime Conference Illinois Update](#). May 25, 2021. (Illinois HIV Action Alliance)
- **Radio/Online Interviews:**
 - WCPT-AM (Out Chicago): aired on February 28 at 11:05 am ([teaser](#)) and 11:47 am ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#))
 - WBEZ-FM [NPR]: aired on April 21 at [6:05 am](#), [8:05 am](#), [10:05 am](#) and [11:44 am](#)
 - WUIS-FM [NPR] (Champaign, Ill.): aired on April 21 at [6:05 am](#) and [8:05 am](#)
- **Social Media**
 - [Twitter: Take Action to End HIV Criminalization in IL!](#) April 7, 2021. (Chicago House)
 - [Twitter: Take Action!](#) April 13, 2021. (Chicago House)
 - [Twitter: Vote YES for SB 655 & HB 1063](#). April 14, 2021. (The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation)
 - [Twitter: 90-9 No Discussion](#). April 14, 2021. (Equality Illinois)
 - [Twitter: Vote YES on Decriminalizing HIV](#). April 14, 2021. (ACLU of Illinois)
 - [Twitter: Our Fight to Get to Zero in Illinois](#). April 15, 2021. (Central Illinois FRIENDS)
 - [Twitter: Join @HIVActionIL in voting YES for HB1063](#). April 19, 2021. (The SERO Project)
 - [Twitter: Vote YES for HB1063](#). April 22, 2021. (Pride Action Tank)
 - [Twitter: Keep the Fight Alive in Illinois!](#) April 24, 2021. (The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation)
 - [Twitter: Action Alert: HB1063](#). April 30, 2021. (Legal Council for Health Justice)
- **Calls to Action & Advocacy**
 - [IHAA: #HIVisNotaCrime](#) (Illinois HIV Action Alliance)
 - [HB 1063: Decriminalize HIV In Illinois](#) (ACLU of Illinois)

HB3308: PRESERVE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY OF TELEHEALTH

- **AIDS Foundation Chicago-initiated articles**
 - [How Telehealth Services Have Provided Relief for Jo](#). March 11, 2021. (AIDS Foundation Chicago Blog)
 - [How Telehealth Services Have Made it Easier for Milani to Attend Therapy](#). April 1, 2021. (AIDS Foundation Chicago Blog)
 - [AFC's Testimony in Support of Telehealth before the Senate Executive Committee](#). May 19, 2021. (Timothy Jackson)
- **External Media**
 - [HB3308 Legislative Factsheet](#)

- [Health News Illinois Legislative Roundtable: Lawmakers Highlight Health Priorities.](#) February 23, 2021. (Health News Illinois)
- [Conroy, Coalition Looks to Expand Telehealth Services.](#) February 24, 2021. (Health News Illinois)
- [Telehealth Omnibus Possible as Advocates Call for Additional Support.](#) March 22, 2021. (Health News Illinois)
- [House passes bill reducing barriers to telehealth.](#) April 23, 2021 (Capitol News Illinois)
- [House Approves Bills on Telehealth, Behavioral Health Coverage, Expanding Birthing Options.](#) April 23, 2021 (Health News Illinois)
- [Telehealth Provides Access to Needed Care – During COVID-19 And Beyond.](#) April 29, 2021 (Capitol Fax)
- [Coalition to Protect Telehealth White Paper: Telehealth Addresses Health Equity.](#) May 4, 2021 (Capitol Fax)
- [Pressure to change Illinois law to have telehealth visits covered by insurance when pandemic ends.](#) May 12, 2021. (Fox 32 Chicago)
- [Telehealth bill addresses barriers 'cooked in' to state law, Rural Health Association says.](#) May 14, 2021. (The Center Square)
- [Senate Committee Approves Amended Telehealth Bill.](#) May 30, 2021. (Capitol News Illinois)
- [Time Is Running Out to Preserve Illinois' Telehealth Protections.](#) May 30, 2021. (WTTW)
- [Illinois Senate passes bills creating affordable housing incentives, expanding telehealth services.](#) May 30, 2021. (Capitol News Illinois)
- [Bills expanding telehealth, limiting isolated timeouts advance in General Assembly.](#) May 30, 2021. (Chicago Sun-Times)
- [Time is running out to maintain telemedicine protection.](#) May 30, 2021. (Illinois Live Now)

SB2133: INCLUSIVE DATA COLLECTION

- [SB2133 Legislative Factsheet](#)
- [AFC's Testimony in Support of SB 2133 before the Senate Rights Committee.](#) April 15, 2021. (Timothy Jackson)
- [Simmons moves to gather data on how COVID-19 has harmed LGBTQ+ communities.](#) April 15, 2021. (Illinois Senate)
- [Video: SB2133 Update with State Senator Mike Simmons.](#) April 16, 2021. (Illinois Senate)
- [Senate passes Simmons' plan to gather data on how COVID-19 has harmed LGBTQ+ communities.](#) April 29, 2021. (Illinois Senate)
- [AFC's Testimony in Support of SB2133 before the House Human Services Committee.](#) May 12, 2021. (Timothy Jackson)

HB3493: HEALTHY ILLINOIS FOR ALL

- [Healthy Illinois for All Legislative Factsheet](#)
- [Healthy Illinois for All Campaign Letter to Governor Pritzker.](#) May 24, 2021.

ILLINOIS STATE BUDGET: AFRICAN-AMERICAN HIV/AIDS RESPONSE FUND, HIV LUMP SUM AND STI FUNDING

- [AFC's Fiscal Year 2022 State Funding Asks Factsheets](#)
- [2021 AFC FY22 State Budget Address Statement: Proposed state budget misses the mark in addressing racial health disparities.](#) February 22, 2021. (Timothy Jackson)
- [AFC's Testimony highlighting FY22 budget asks before the Senate Appropriations-Health Committee.](#) March 17, 2021. (Timothy Jackson)

- [HB4057: Legislation filed by State Representative Lamont Robinson requesting \\$15 million to be appropriated for the African-American HIV/AIDS Response Fund.](#) March 18, 2021.
- [Ezike says few new initiatives in IDPH's budget.](#) April 19, 2021. (Health News Illinois)
- [AFC's Testimony highlighting FY22 budget asks before the House Appropriations-Human Services Committee.](#) April 16, 2021. (Timothy Jackson)

HB158: IL LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS' HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OMNIBUS BILL

- [HB158 Bill Overview](#)
- [Health care reform bill — final 'pillar' in Black Caucus agenda — heads to Pritzker's desk.](#) March 25, 2021. (Chicago Sun-Times)
- [Illinois General Assembly passes sweeping healthcare bill.](#) March 25, 2021. (KHQA/ABC 7)
- [Following outcry over plan to close Mercy, Illinois law may soon put hospital closures on hold for the rest of the pandemic.](#) April 1, 2021. (Chicago Tribune)
- [Bill Awaiting Pritzker's Signature Declares Violence a Public Health Crisis.](#) April 5, 2021. (WTTW News)
- [Pritzker signs expansive health care access, equity proposal.](#) April 27, 2021. (The Washington Post).
- [Pritzker signs health care reform bill into law.](#) April 27, 2021. (The Center Square Illinois)
- [Gov. Pritzker Signs Equity Driven Healthcare Reform Legislation.](#) April 27, 2021. (Chicago Defender)
- [Gov JB Pritzker signs sweeping healthcare reform bill that aims to address systemic racism.](#) April 27, 2021. (ABC 7)
- [Gov. Pritzker signs health care reform act into law.](#) April 27, 2021. (WGEM)
- [VIDEO: Pritzker signs health care law.](#) April 27, 2021. (FOX 2 Now)
- [Pritzker Signs Health Care Reform Measure Backed by Black Caucus.](#) April 28, 2021. (Illinois Newsroom)
- [Pritzker signs bill to heal real health care problems facing Black and Brown residents — but GOP says it's based on 'fantasy money.'](#) April 28, 2021. (Chicago Sun-Times)
- [Pritzker signs health care reform bill.](#) April 29, 2021. (Illinois Times)
- [New Health Care Law Aims to Stop Systemic Racism.](#) May 26, 2021. (Illinois Newsroom)

HB2877: COVID-19 EMERGENCY EVICTION AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

- [HB2877 Legislative Factsheet](#)
- [COVID-19 housing bill aims to provide additional support to renters, homeowners.](#) March 17, 2021. (Capitol News Illinois)
- [It's Just a Bill.](#) March 18, 2021. (Capitol Fax)
- [AFC's Testimony in support of HB2877 before the Senate Executive Committee.](#) April 21, 2021. (Timothy Jackson)
- [Illinois emergency housing assistance bill will head to Gov. Pritzker.](#) April 29, 2021. (Capitol News Illinois)
- [State Senate sends Pritzker COVID-19 relief bill designed to 'keep people in the state of Illinois in their homes'.](#) April 29, 2021. (Chicago Sun-Times)
- [Illinois bill managing \\$700 million in rental assistance poised for governor.](#) May 1, 2021. (The Center Square Illinois)
- [CAPITOL RECAP: Pritzker announces plans for broader reopening.](#) May 12, 2021. (The Galena Gazette)

HB711: PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REFORM ACT

- [HB711 Legislative Factsheet](#)
- [The Problem with Prior Authorization](#). January 2020 (Illinois State Medical Society/Your Care Can't Wait Coalition)
- [Illinois Patients Pay the Price for Bureaucratic Health Insurer Delays](#). February 8, 2021. (Your Care Can't Wait Coalition)
- [Coalition Renews Push for Prior Authorization Reform](#). February 10, 2021. (Health News Illinois)
- [Health News Illinois Legislative Roundtable: Lawmakers Highlight Health Priorities](#). February 23, 2021. (Health News Illinois)
- [House Approves Prior Authorization Reform](#). April 22, 2021. (Health News Illinois)
- [AFC's Written Testimony in Support of HB711](#). May 5, 2021. (Timothy Jackson)
- [Senator Holmes moves to reform prior authorization practices by health insurers](#). May 6, 2021. (Illinois Senate)
- [Senate Approves Prior Authorization Reform](#). May 28, 2021. (Health News Illinois)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & A WORD OF THANKS

AIDS Foundation Chicago is blessed beyond measure to have a staff that is committed to the work of affirming and uplifting people living with or vulnerable to HIV. Specifically, I want to take this opportunity to thank the **Policy & Advocacy Team (Nadeen Israel, Kim L. Hunt, Aisha N. Davis, Meg McElroy, Coleman Goode, Sara Semelka, Kennedy Brookins, Jackie Thaney)** and the **Communications Team (Jack Rothmund, Brian Solem, D'Ontace Keyes, Ashley Brown, Bailey Williams, Ella Shapiro, Sara Kenward)** for all of your hard work and dedication. Back in January, we started with a very ambitious policy agenda wondering how we would get a couple of them passed into law. **Well, because of this team, we GOT EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM PASSED!** Please take a bow. You have earned it.

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.”

Andrew Carnegie

