



**AIDS
FOUNDATION
CHICAGO**

2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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AFC Policy & Advocacy Team

POLICY PRIORITIES DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- Each year, AFC's Policy and Advocacy (P&A) team initiates its [policy priorities development process](#) to determine its policy agenda for the state legislative session.
- During the summer and fall of 2023, AFC staff conducted **ten (10) listening sessions** designed to engage community stakeholders in conversations about policies impacting people living with or vulnerable to HIV as well as people experiencing homelessness or housing instability. **These listening sessions included people living with HIV, people impacted by housing instability, health care and social service providers, advocates, case managers and others.**
- These priorities also operationalize AFC's intentional and responsive anti-racism work and the principle that "racism is a public health crisis" while also fulfilling the goals and priorities of the Getting to Zero Illinois (GTZ-IL) plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2030.

2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

- The 2024 Spring session of the 103rd General Assembly gaveled in on January 16, 2024.
- This year's session will be backloaded including most days after the March 19, 2024 primary elections. The General Assembly is set to adjourn on May 24, 2024.
- **Some of the pressing issues during this year's session:**
 - Fiscal Year 2025 State Budget
 - Impact of Primary Elections (March 19th)
 - Ongoing Migrant Issue



STRENGTHENING AND PROTECTING ILLINOIS' HIV FUNDING INFRASTRUCTURE (SPIHFI)

This legislation includes \$4.5 million in investments to the state's HIV funding infrastructure in the state's FY2025 budget:

- HIV Lump Sum: \$2M (currently funded at \$25.56M)
- Rapid Start for HIV Treatment Pilot: \$2.5M (New Line Item)

This legislation also protects funding for the following:

- GTZ-IL: Currently funded at \$5.5M
- AAHARF: Currently funded at \$10M*
- PrEP4Illinois Program: \$2M (New FY24 Line Item)
- STIs: \$500K (New FY24 Line Item)

BILL SPONSORS: Representative Hoan Huynh (D-Chicago) and Senator Mike Simmons (D-Chicago)

HB5417/SB3711: CONNECTION TO HIV TESTING AND LINKAGE TO CARE (HIV TLC) ACT

This legislation enacts the following reforms:

- At-Home HIV Testing Kits: Mandates insurers and Medicaid provide coverage for home test kits for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, without cost-sharing.
- Rapid Start Pilots: Creates eight Rapid Start for HIV Treatment pilot sites that will initiate antiretroviral therapy within 7 days of initial diagnosis or within 7 days of referral to HIV medical care.
- HIV Education in County Jails: Ensures that all county jails provide HIV/AIDS education to people who are incarcerated and visitors, as well as link them to HIV testing as mandated by Illinois' County Jail Act.

BILL SPONSORS: Representative Kelly Cassidy (D-Chicago) and Senator Lakesia Collins (D-Chicago)

HB4472/SB3108: PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD (PDAB)

This bill would establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB), an independent, nonpartisan body with the authority to evaluate high-cost prescription drugs and set upper payment limits on what Illinoisans will pay.

- Affects the entire supply chain (manufacturers, wholesalers, and Prescription Benefit Managers (PBMs), insurers and pharmacies)

Public Opinion:

- 28% of Illinoisans either have not filled prescriptions or rationed their medication due to cost.
- 54% of Illinoisans are worried about affording their prescription medication.
- 86% of Illinoisans are supportive of establishing a PDAB.

AFC is working in partnership with Citizen Action Illinois and the Protect Our Care Coalition on this legislation.

BILL SPONSORS: Senator Dave Koehler (D-Peoria) and Representative Nabeela Syed (D-Palatine)

HB2: OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES PILOT

OPS have been shown to save lives, reduce the spread of infectious diseases, such as HIV and Hepatitis C, and link those with substance use disorders to behavioral and physical health care.

Specifically, HB2 would:

- Create one Overdose Prevention Site pilot
- Connect folks to community support or other existing medical care, treatment, recovery programs and harm reduction services
- Establish minimum principles and features for OPS, informed by the harm reduction and medical communities
- Require programs to hire peers/people with lived experience along with medical staff.

BILL SPONSORS: State Representative LaShawn Ford (D-Chicago) and State Senator Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago)

HEALTHY ILLINOIS FOR ALL

AFC and the Healthy Illinois Campaign supports the following:

- Full Funding of the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults (42-64) and Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors (65 and older) in the state's FY25 budget
- Reopen enrollment in HBIA/HBIS programs without co-pays.
 - HBIA and HBIS program participants are in the middle of transition from fee for service to the Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).
 - As of February 1st, most services covered by the HBIA and HBIS programs, which provide health care coverage for individuals who would be eligible for Medicaid coverage if not for their immigration status, will continue to be free for customers, including primary care visits, prescription medications and vaccinations at a pharmacy or doctor's office.
 - The new copays and co-insurance will apply to the use of non-emergency hospital or surgical center services, like nonemergent elective surgeries, physical therapy, and lab work.

LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION: Senator Omar Aquino (D-Chicago)

SB2836: BAN ON SHORT-TERM LIMITED DURATION “JUNK” HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

“Junk insurance plans” are not subject to the consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) including the requirement to provide coverage of essential health services. In turn, Illinoisans with these plans can be denied coverage for certain conditions resulting in people going without necessary care or facing higher out-of-pocket costs.

Specifically, SB2836 would ban these junk insurance plans that often deny coverage to people with chronic conditions like HIV and result in higher premiums.

AFC worked alongside Protect Our Care Illinois in 2018 to pass legislation limiting these junk plans to six months of coverage and come with clear “buyer beware” disclosure language.

BILL SPONSORS: Senator Laura Fine (D-Glenview) and Representative Bob Morgan (D-Highwood)

FUNDING TO PREVENT & END HOMELESSNESS

Housing is healthcare, especially to people living with or vulnerable to HIV.

Advocates will be asking for \$85 million in new funding in the state's Fiscal Year 2025 budget—for homeless prevention, emergency shelter, homeless youth programs, supportive housing, and other priorities—to keep making progress on the HOME Illinois plan to prevent and end homelessness.

AFC and the Center for Housing and Health are proud to partner with community partners Housing Action Illinois, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Illinois Shelter Alliance, and the Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA) in this advocacy.

LEGISLATIVE CHAMPION: Representative Will Guzzardi (D-Chicago)

[SB2158](#)/[HB3703](#): STOP THE REVOLVING DOOR FROM RE-ENTRY TO HOMELESSNESS TO PRISON

Current Illinois registry and housing banishment laws systematically displace, exclude and reincarcerate people—disproportionately Black men—with past convictions.

Specifically, this legislation enacts the following reforms:

- Reduce housing banishment zones from 500 to 250 feet and once people find safe and stable housing, grandfather them in.
- Repeal the extra “weekly” registration. Register people based on “duty to register,” not their housing status.
- Make “failure to register” a misdemeanor (from a felony).

AFC is working in partnership with the Chicago 400 on this legislation.

BILL SPONSORS: Senator Kimberly Lightford (D-Hillside) and Representative Camille Lilly (D-Oak Park)

HB5051: BAN ON PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS IN HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS

Prior authorization is a requirement by health insurance plans for patients to obtain approval of a health care service or medication before the care is provided. However, these requirements often cause delays for patients, including those with chronic conditions like HIV, and in turn, result in negative clinical outcomes.

American Academy of Family Physicians is among those who contend that prior authorizations “can worsen health disparities and create barriers to care for medically underserved patients, patients of color, LGBTQ+ patients, patients in rural areas, and those at risk for poor health outcomes.”

Specifically, HB5051 would ban prior authorization in health insurance plans for gender-affirming care/hormonal therapy, as well as HIV/HCV treatment and prevention.

BILL SPONSOR: Representative Jennifer Ladisch Douglass (D-Westmont)

WHAT'S NEXT?



ILLINOIS' VIRTUAL HIV ADVOCACY
DAY 2024

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

#AD24 Registration will go LIVE on
February 29, 2024!

Sign-up for AFC's Mobile Action
Network by texting AFC to 40649!

ANY QUESTIONS?



FOR MORE INFORMATION



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