

# AIDS Foundation OF CHICAGO

## **2006 State Legislative Update: Illinois General Assembly Approves Major Funding Increases for HIV/AIDS Treatment/Services**

SPRINGFIELD, IL (May 5, 2006)—In a victory for the fight against HIV/AIDS, the Illinois General Assembly appropriated an additional \$5.5 million for HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention services for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. The state's \$56 billion budget for FY07 includes an additional \$2.5 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which provides lifesaving medications to low-income Illinoisans with HIV, and a new \$3 million appropriation to establish the African American HIV/AIDS Response Fund.

"The AIDS Foundation of Chicago applauds Governor Blagojevich and the members of the General Assembly for taking bold steps in the fight against AIDS," said Mark Ishaug, AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) executive director. "With these increases, Illinois will provide life-saving medications to thousands of state residents who need them and help slow the spread of HIV in Black communities where the HIV crisis is most acute."

Several lawmakers—including State Senators Carol Ronen (D-Chicago) and Kimberly Lightford (D-Maywood) and State Representatives Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), Connie Howard (D-Chicago), Larry McKeon (D-Chicago), Harry Osterman (D-Chicago), and others—championed efforts to secure the AIDS funding increases. AFC thanks Governor Rod Blagojevich for including in the FY 2006 a request for \$2 million in additional funds for ADAP. AFC also commends Senate President Emil Jones Jr. and House Speaker Michael Madigan for their leadership on increased HIV/AIDS funding and sensible HIV/AIDS public policy, and the 66 members of the House of Representatives who signed a [letter](#) to Speaker Madigan requesting increased ADAP funds.

### ADAP Funding Increase and Medicare Part D/ADAP Wrap Legislation

ADAP is slated to receive a total of \$12.6 million in state funding next fiscal year, up from \$10.1 million in FY 2006. Program expenses are increasing at a rate of about 10% per year, driven by rising medication costs, increases in the number of enrolled clients, and an increased average number of prescriptions per client. About 3,300 Illinoisans obtain their medications from ADAP each month. Thanks to a provision sponsored by Rep. McKeon, the ADAP budget will include up to \$250,000 for organ transplant medication and viral hepatitis treatment, an emerging health concern for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Federal ADAP funding has not kept pace with program growth. While the state received \$2 million additional federal dollars last year, funds will increase by only \$500,000 in 2006. As people with HIV live longer—thanks in part to the medications provided under this program—and new infections continue unabated, demand for ADAP will continue to grow in the future.

The legislature also enacted [HB 4302](#), the Medicare Part D/ADAP coordination bill, which expands the Illinois Cares Rx program beginning January 1, 2007. It will help about 200 people with HIV to transition from the ADAP to the new Medicare Part D drug program. This legislation will maximize federal benefits for people in Illinois and reduce state prescription drug purchasing costs by almost 60%. Most importantly, it will keep ADAP available for people who have no other means of accessing life-saving HIV/AIDS medication.

AFC commends Rep. Feigenholtz and Sen. Ronen for sponsoring HB 4302, and thanks the leadership of the Illinois Departments of Public Health (IDPH) and Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) for working with AFC and our partners [AIDS Legal Council of Chicago](#) and [Health and Disability Advocates](#) to shape the new program. . AFC also thanks the hundreds of advocates who traveled to Springfield and lobbied for HB 4302 and increased ADAP funding during the [2006 Caring for Our Community: HIV/AIDS Lobby Day](#).

### African American HIV/AIDS Fund

The budget provides \$3 million for the new African American HIV/AIDS Response Fund, [SB 1001](#), sponsored by State Rep. Howard and State Sen. Lightford and championed by Let's Talk Let's Test Foundation. Appropriations will be used for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services and to reduce the disparities in HIV/AIDS infections between African Americans and other groups. The legislation requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to release rules that will outline how funds are to be spent. Although African Americans represent 15% of the state's population, they accounted for 54% of the state's AIDS cases in 2004.

### Other Budget Victories

The budget also continues a \$2 million appropriation to provide HIV/AIDS services for prisoners and ex-prisoners, \$3.15 million for HIV prevention services in communities of color, and \$400,000 for the HIV/AIDS Policy and Research Institute at Chicago State University. In housing, \$4.2 million in new funding will provide supportive services to low-income residents, including people with HIV/AIDS. Supportive housing services are critical to ensuring homeless individuals, people with disabilities, and others can live successfully in the community. In addition, the budget provides \$4.9 million in new funding for methamphetamine prevention and treatment services. Methamphetamine use has been linked an increase in HIV and STD infections in gay men.

### Perinatal HIV Prevention Legislation

One of the most important pieces of legislation AFC worked on this year is [HB 4306](#), which mandates HIV testing for newborns if their mother's HIV status is unknown. If doctors administer antiretroviral drugs to HIV-positive women during pregnancy or to HIV-exposed newborns after birth, HIV infection of the newborn can be prevented in most cases. This legislation was sponsored by Rep. Mary Flowers (D-Chicago) and Sen. John Cullerton (D-Chicago) and championed by Children's Memorial Hospital.

AFC and partners, including Perinatal Rapid Testing in Illinois, AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, and [Families and Children's AIDS Network](#), initially opposed HB 4306. [Legislation](#) passed in 2003, which expanded voluntary HIV counseling and testing for pregnant women and newborns, already had a 98% success rate in voluntarily testing new mothers and infants discharged from Illinois birthing hospitals. This number was up from 73% in 2004.

AFC dropped opposition to HB 4306 after the sponsor agreed to include amendments proposed by AFC. The amendments will ensure women are tested voluntarily for HIV as early in pregnancy as possible. They require hospitals to report statistics monthly and the state to fund intensive case management and a 24-hour hotline. Doctors will be required to refer HIV-exposed newborns to the hotline and case management. A summary of the new legislation will be available shortly.

### Other Legislation

AFC applauds the General Assembly for passing legislation to allow Medicaid beneficiaries to pre-pay their monthly spend-down, eliminating a significant administrative hassle; regulate tattoo and body

piercing establishments; allow domestic violence and other survivors to be safe in their homes; and create a statewide housing planning process.

The following is a list of bills AFC monitored during the 2006 spring session. For additional information on the bills described below, please visit the Illinois General Assembly website at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov). Stay tuned to AFC's Statewide Advocacy Network for the latest HIV/AIDS policy news in Illinois. Join the network at [http://www.aidschicago.org/advocacy/join\\_network.php](http://www.aidschicago.org/advocacy/join_network.php).

Key: HB=House Bill; SB=Senate Bill; HR=House Resolution; SR=Senate Resolution  
Vote key: 55-5-2 means 55 voting yes, 5 voting no, 2 voting present

### **HEALTHCARE/TREATMENT EXPANSION**

**Helping Low-Income Medicare Beneficiaries Living with HIV / [HB 4302](#):** (House Sponsor: Feigenholtz, D-Chicago; House Co-Sponsors: McKeon, Franks, Chapa LaVia, Yarborough, Coulson, Mulligan, Osterman, Currie, M. Davis, Howard. Senate Sponsor: Ronen, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsors: Hunter, Sandoval, Lightford, Raoul, Radogno, Harmon)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** HB 4302 expands the Illinois Cares Rx program to cover HIV medications for people who are eligible for the new Medicare prescription drug program but cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs. The bill makes good public health and fiscal sense by helping people with HIV obtain lifesaving HIV medications and maximizing federal Medicare spending for AIDS care in Illinois.

**Status:** The House passed the bill by a vote of 111-1 on February 1, 2006, and passed the Senate 49-0 on March 27. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

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**All-Kids Dependent Student Coverage / [HB 4447](#):** (House Sponsor: Patterson, D-Chicago; House Co-Sponsors: L. Jones, Howard, Turner, Flowers, Rita, Soto, Acevedo, M. Davis, Collins, Hamos)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Expands the All Kids Health Insurance Program to allow dependent children between 19 and 23 years of age to buy into the program if the child was enrolled before turning 18, is in college full-time, and can be claimed as a dependent for tax purposes.

**Status:** The House Healthcare Availability and Access Committee passed the bill by a vote of 6-5 on February 8. The bill was not acted on by the final deadline.

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**Sexual Assault Survivor's Treatment Act Report / [HB 5300](#):** (House Sponsor: Mulligan, D-Park Ridge; House Co-Sponsors: Feigenholtz, Delgado, Coulson, Parke, Jakobsson, May, Ryg. Senate Sponsor: Harmon, D-Oak Park; Senate Co-Sponsors: Crotty, Althoff, Martinez, Collins, Hunter, Ronen, Lightford, Axley, Silverstein)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Requires the Illinois Department of Public Health to prepare an annual report to the General Assembly containing information on hospitals that have submitted a plan to provide emergency

services to victims of sexual assault, which must include an offer of HIV/AIDS counseling and testing and prophylactic HIV/AIDS treatment.

**Status:** The House Human Services Committee passed the bill by a unanimous vote on February 8. The bill passed the House unanimously February 24 and the Senate unanimously on March 27. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

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**Pre-Pay Medicaid Spend-Down / [SB 2308](#):** (Senate Sponsor: Link, D-Vernon Hills; Senate Co-Sponsor: Crotty. House Sponsor: Ryg, D-Vernon Hills; House Co-Sponsors: Franks, Boland, Feigenholtz, McGuire, Washington, Soto, Nekritz, Acevedo, Delgado, May, Hamos, Chavez, Berrios, Burke, Lyons, Mulligan, Black, Coulson, Parke, Mathais, J. Bradley, Patterson, Dugan, Gordon)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Allows individuals to pay the amount of their Medicaid spend-down as a premium instead of requiring proof of monthly out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures. The bill promotes continuity of care for Medicaid beneficiaries, including those living with HIV/AIDS, on a monthly spend-down.

**Status:** The bill passed the Senate unanimously on February 23, and the House unanimously on March 16. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

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**Medicaid Drug Prior Approval / [HB 4779](#) and [SB 2432](#):** (House Sponsor: Coulson, R-Glenview; House Co-Sponsors: Bellock, Leitch. Senate Sponsor: Raoul, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsors: Martinez, Syverson)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Prohibits the Department of Healthcare and Family Services from imposing prior approval for antiretrovirals or other drugs under the Medicaid program.

**Status:** House: The bill was not released from the Rules Committee. Senate: The bill was not called for a vote in committee by the deadline.

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**Healthy Illinois Act / [SB 2561](#) and [HB 4961](#):** (Senate Sponsor: Halverson, D-Crete; Senate Co-Sponsors: Collins, Hunter, Sandoval, Crotty, Raoul, Martinez. House Sponsor: Flowers, D-Chicago)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Establishes a statewide, comprehensive health insurance plan that would be administered by private insurance carriers. Small businesses and small municipalities with 2 to 50 employees would be eligible, as well as the self-employed and other uninsured individuals. For enrollees earning less than 300% of federal poverty, premiums would be on a sliding scale. The creation of such a plan would be especially beneficial to HIV-positive people and others with chronic conditions who work for small companies as well as self-employed individuals.

**Status:** The Senate Health and Human Services Committee passed the bill by a vote of 7-4 on February 16; the bill is now pending action by the full Senate. The deadline for action has been

extended to January 9, 2007. HB 4961 was introduced in the House on January 19 but was not acted on.

This bill was championed by Citizen Action/Illinois.

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**Medical Cannabis Act / [SB 2568](#):** (Senate Sponsor: Cullerton, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsor: Raoul, Martinez)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Allows people who have been diagnosed with a debilitating illness such as AIDS to possess and use marijuana as part of a doctor-prescribed treatment plan.

**Status:** The Senate Health and Human Services Committee passed the bill by a vote of 6-5 on February 16; the bill is now pending action by the full Senate.

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**Sexual Assault Survivor's Treatment Act Amendments / [SB 2850](#):** (Sponsor: Schoenberg, D-Evanston)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Changes billing practices for the Sexual Assault Survivor's Treatment program, including payment for follow-up care and HIV/AIDS prophylactic treatment.

**Status:** The bill was introduced in the Senate on January 20 and referred to the Rules Committee. The bill was not acted on by the deadline.

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**The Ryan White Fund Validation Act / [SB 2936](#)** (Senate Sponsor: Ronen, D-Chicago. House Sponsor: May D-Highland Park; House Co-Sponsors: Franks, Chapa LaVia, Flowers, Howard, Coulson, Jakobsson, Bellock, Delgado, Jenisch, Collins, Rita, Nekritz, Currie, Osterman, Soto, Mendoza, Berrios, Acevedo, Yarbrough, Golar)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Creates the Ryan White Fund Validation Act. Validates actions taken and grants made under a Section of the Communicable Disease Prevention Act relating to the Ryan White Pediatric and Adult AIDS Fund (now repealed). That Section was created by Public Act 88-669, which has been held to be unconstitutional as a violation of the single subject clause of the Illinois Constitution. The bill is supported by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

**Status:** The Senate Health & Human Services Committee passed the bill on February 8 by a vote of 10-0, and the Senate unanimously passed the bill on February 16. It passed the House unanimously April 3, and awaits the governor's signature.

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**Veteran's Health Insurance Program Act / [SB 627](#)** (Senate Sponsor: Halvorson, D-Crete; Senate Co-Sponsors: E. Jones, Sullivan, Wilhelmi, Demuzio, Crotty, Forby, Link, Lightford, Haine, Jacobs,

Meeks, Maloney, Collins, Raoul, and Althoff. House Sponsor: Mautino, D-Spring Valley; House Co-sponsors: Chapa LaVia, Dugan, Phelps, Gordon, Jakobsson, Verschoore, Flider, Reitz, Lyons, Franks, Ryg, Molaro, McGuire, Mitchell, Bost, Brady, Lindner, Parke, Watson, Durkin, Osmond, Meyer, Beaubien, Stephens, Bassi, Munson, Bellock, Holbrook, Smith, Hannig, J. Bradley, Beiser, Moffitt, Sacia, R. Bradley)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** The legislation provides health insurance for uninsured veterans with incomes below 225% of poverty who live too far from a Veteran's Affairs hospital to access care. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services may establish through rules cost sharing, premiums, and other program details.

**Status:** The legislation passed the Senate unanimously on April 6, and passed the House on May 4. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

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**Comprehensive Health Insurance Program / [SB 918](#):** (Senate Sponsor: Demuzio, D-Carlinville; Senate Co-Sponsors: E. Jones. House Sponsor: Flider, D-Decatur; House Co-Sponsors: Boland, McGuire, Feigenholtz, Holbrook, Jefferson, Phelps, Verschoore, McKeon, Bradley, Dugan, Collins, Hannig, Gordon)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Raises the Comprehensive Health Insurance Program (CHIP) maximum lifetime benefit limit from \$1 million to \$1.5 million. CHIP is the state's insurance program for individuals who cannot afford individual coverage because pre-existing illnesses would make the premium unaffordable.

**Status:** Passed the Senate unanimously on March 1, and passed the House unanimously on March 23. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

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**Dissolve Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District / [SB2654](#)** (Senate Sponsor: Harmon, D-Oak Park; Senate Co-Sponsor: Trotter. House Sponsor: Nekritz, D-Desplaines; House Co-Sponsor: Froehlich.)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** The legislation eliminates the Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District and combines its functions and taxing authority with the Cook County Board. The legislation could streamline TB prevention and treatment in suburban Cook County. People with HIV are particularly susceptible to TB.

**Status:** The legislation passed the Senate unanimously on April 4, and passed the House unanimously on May 2. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

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**Nursing Home Felony Background Checks / [HB 4785](#)** (House Sponsor: Brosnahan, D-Oak Lawn; House Co-Sponsors: Daniels, Joyce, Smith, Holbrook, Lyons, McCarthy, R. Bradley, Chavez, Berrios, Rita, Mendoza, Molaro, Yarbrough, Hannig, Verschoore, McGuire, McKeon, Granberg, Flowers,

Franks, Chapa LaVia, Osterman, Jefferson. Senate Sponsor: Maloney, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsors: Collins, Hunter, Lightford, Harmon)

**AFC Position:** Neutral

**Issue:** Requires felony background checks for all nursing home residents. The Illinois Department of Public Health must prepare a criminal history analysis for each identified offender, including the extent to which an offender's criminal history requires the implementation of security measures at the facility. If the facility cannot make appropriate security arrangements, it may transfer the resident out of the facility against his or her will.

**Status:** The bill passed the House 106-5-3 on March 3, and passed the Senate 50-0 on March 27. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

## **HIV PREVENTION**

**Mandated HIV Testing of Newborns / [HB 4306](#)** (House Sponsor: Flowers, D-Chicago; House Co-Sponsors: Dunkin, Coulson, Ryg, Chapa LaVia, Collins, Kelly, Boland, Mulligan, Nekritz, Hamos, Mendoza, Acevedo, Miller, Turner, Burke, Hoffman, Scully, Yarbrough, Fritchey, Berrios, Chavez, Tenhouse, Delgado, M. Davis, W. Davis, Schock, Soto, Black. Senate Sponsor: Cullerton, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsors: Harmon, Risinger, Righter, Axley, Trotter, Lauzen, Hunter)

**AFC Position:** Neutral

**Issue:** The bill mandates HIV testing of newborns when the mother's HIV status is unreported. If the baby is exposed to HIV, the immediate initiation of antiretroviral treatment can prevent HIV infection. The bill also requires the mother's HIV status to be recorded in the newborn's medical record. Children's Memorial Hospital and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are the bill's primary proponents.

**Status:** AFC organized opposition to the bill but failed to prevent it from moving forward. The House Human Services Committee passed the bill by a vote of 9-3 on January 19. Recognizing that passage in the General Assembly was virtually assured, AFC and Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (PACPI) negotiated with Children's Memorial and Rep. Mary Flowers to add to the bill several amendments requiring hospitals to utilize the perinatal HIV hotline, mandating monthly and annual reporting on rapid HIV tests conducted on pregnant women and newborns, and mandating IDPH to offer case management services to HIV-positive new mothers. With acceptance of the amendments, AFC dropped its opposition and is officially taking no position on the bill. The bill passed the House unanimously February 22. The AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, the Families and Children's AIDS Network, and Chicago Women's AIDS Project remained opposed to mandated newborn testing, and testified against the bill in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee March 15. The bill passed the Senate unanimously March 28, and awaits the governor's signature.

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**African American AIDS Response Fund / [HB 4456](#)** (House Sponsor: Howard, D-Chicago; House Co-Sponsors: Graham, Giles, Colvin, Washington, Golar, W. Davis, Yarbrough, M. Davis, Jones, Collins, Younge, Miller. Senate Sponsor: Lightford, D-Maywood; Senate Co-Sponsors: Hendon, Collins). [SB 1001](#) (Senate Sponsor: Lightford; Senate Co-Sponsors: E. Jones, Martinez, Meeks, Hunter. House Sponsor: Howard; House Co-sponsors: Fritchey, Washington, Golar, Chapa LaVia, Boland)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** The bill establishes a state-level fund for projects responding to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the African-American community, such as HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, the creation of an HIV/AIDS service delivery system, capacity building for community-based organizations, research, and creating one-stop service facilities.

**Status:** The State Government Administration Committee passed the bill on February 1 by a vote of 7-1, with 1 member voting present. The bill passed the full House 113-0, with one voting present, on February 27. The bill was not called in the Senate by the deadline. However, the provisions were amended onto SB 1001, which passed the Senate 50-6-1 on April 4, and passed the House 94-7 on April 25.

This legislation was championed by Let's Talk Let's Test Foundation.

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**Forced Testing of Suspects Who Expose Law Enforcement Officers to Bodily Fluids / [HB 4396](#)**  
(House Sponsor: Wait, R-Belvidere. Senate Sponsor: Ronen, D-Chicago.)

**AFC Position:** Oppose

**Issue:** Allows mandated HIV testing of a suspect who exposes a peace officer to his/her blood or other bodily fluids. HB 4396 is unnecessary because existing state law gives strong protections to law enforcement officers who may be exposed to HIV. It also equates HIV testing with penalties, which risks jeopardizing HIV testing promotion efforts.

**Status:** House Judiciary II – Criminal Law Committee passed the bill by a vote of 10-1, with two voting present, on February 8, and passed the House 115-0, with two members voting present. The bill was not called for a vote in the Senate by the deadline.

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**Tattoo & Body Piercing Registration Act / [HB 4523](#) and [SB 2229](#)** (House Sponsor: Bellock, R-Hinsdale; House Co-Sponsors: Coulson, Tryon, Mathais, Froehlich, Pritchard. Senate Sponsor: Maloney, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsors: Haine, Dillard, Demuzio): [SB 927](#) (Senate Sponsor: Maloney; Senate Co-sponsor: E. Jones. House Sponsor: Bellock; House Co-Sponsors: McGuire, Coulson, Tryon, Moffitt, Delgado, Rita.)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Requires tattoo and body piercing businesses to register with the Illinois Department of Public Health to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

**Status:** HB4523 was amended and voted out of the House Registration and Regulation Committee on February 15, by a vote of 16-1, with one member voting present; the bill is now pending action by the full House. SB 2229 passed the Senate Human Services Committee on February 16 by a vote of 11-0; but was not called by the deadline. The provisions of HB 4523 were amended onto SB 927, which passed the Senate 45-10 on April 4 and passed the House unanimously on April 25. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

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**Age-Appropriate Sex Education Grant Program Act / [SB 2267](#)** (Senate Sponsor: Ronen, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsors: Raoul, Hunter, Martinez, Schoenberg, Harmon, DeLeo)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** The bill would establish a fund for comprehensive and medically accurate sex education projects available to school districts and schools across Illinois. AFC is a supporter of the statewide campaign being led by the Illinois Caucus of Adolescent Health and Planned Parenthood/Chicago Area.

**Status:** The Senate Health & Human Services passed the bill by a vote of 7-2 on February 8; and the bill is now pending action in the full Senate.

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## **HOUSING**

**Safe Homes Act / [HB 4715](#)** (House Sponsor: Kelly, D-Matteson; House Co-Sponsors: Yarbrough, Dugan, Feigenholtz, Osterman, Currie, Jakobsson, Gordon, Patterson, Miller, Beiser, Younge, W. Davis, Turner, Dunkin, Collins, Nekritz, Hamos, Graham, Colvin, Golar, Jefferson. Senate Sponsor: Raoul, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsors: Collins, Martinez, Ronen, Jacobs)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Provides that a survivor of domestic or sexual violence has rights to safety within his or her home. Depending upon the circumstances, the landlord must change the locks or allow the individual to change the locks if the landlord does not act. The bill also provides grounds to terminate the lease.

**Status:** The House Housing and Urban Development Committee passed the bill by a vote of 9-6 on February 14. The legislation passed the House 63-47-6 on March 2, and passed the Senate 56-1 on April 6. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

This legislation was championed by Housing Action Illinois and Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing.

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**Residential Tenant Protection Act / [HB 4758](#)** (House Sponsor: W. Davis, D-Hazel Crest; House Co-Sponsor: Froehlich)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Prohibits landlords from locking tenants out of their apartments instead of following formal eviction procedures. Also prohibits harassment, turning off utilities, removal of appliances, or otherwise making the apartment uninhabitable. Establishes penalties for violations.

**Status:** The House Housing and Urban Development Committee passed the bill unanimously on February 7. However, the bill failed in the House 24-80-10 on March 3.

This legislation was championed by Housing Action Illinois and Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing.

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**State Comprehensive Housing Planning Act / [HB 5268](#)** (House Sponsor: Hamos, D-Evanston; House Co-Sponsors: Yarbrough, Nekritz, Kelly, Ryg, Mendoza, Soto, Osterman, Currie, Chapa LaVia, Bradley. Senate Sponsor: Martinez, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsors: Collins, Meeks): [SB 2290](#) (Senate Sponsor: Martinez, D-Chicago; Co-sponsors: Collins, Hunter, Ronen, Meeks, Peterson, Jacobs, Raoul. House Sponsor: Hamos, House Co-Sponsors: Osterman, Graham, Golar)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Creates the Comprehensive Housing Planning Act. Requires the State of Illinois to prepare and be guided by an annual comprehensive housing plan that is consistent with the affirmative fair housing provisions of the Illinois Human Rights Act and specifically addresses certain under-served populations, including households earning below 50% of the area median income, low-income senior citizens, and low-income persons with disabilities.

**Status:** The House passed HB 5268 by a vote of 114-0 on February 16. The Senate Housing & Community Affairs Committee assed SB 2990 by a vote of 7-3 on February 15, but it was not called by the deadline. A similar bill in the Senate, SB 2290, passed the Senate 30-23-1 on March 2, and passed the House 108-5 on April 4. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

This legislation was championed by Housing Action Illinois and Lawyer's Committee for Better Housing.

## **CORRECTIONS**

**Human Rights of Ex-Offenders / [HB 4188](#)** (Sponsor: Rep. Connie Howard, D-Chicago) [HJR 107](#) (House Sponsor: Howard; House Co-Sponsors: Fritchey, Hamos, McKeon, Eddy, Flowers, Yarbrough, Nekritz, Davis, Dunkin, Currie, Washington, Soto, Jefferson, Colvin, Jones, Collins, Golar, Graham, M. Davis, Bellock)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Amends the Illinois Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination against ex-offenders in housing, employment, and other areas.

**Status:** HB 4523 was referred to the Judiciary I – Civil Law Committee on January 5, but was not called for a vote by the deadline. Instead, HJR 107 will require the General Assembly to create a task force to determine if there are illegal and undue barriers to employment for people with a criminal record.

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**Criminal Code – Identification Documents / [HB 4520](#)** (House Sponsor: Yarborough, D-Maywood):

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Requires that drivers' licenses, state-issued identification cards, Social Security account cards, or other government issued identification documents in possession of a county sheriff at the time a person is committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) must be forwarded to IDOC. IDOC must keep those documents and return them to the individual when he or she is released.

**Status:** HB 4520 was introduced on January 11 and referred to the Rules Committee. It was not called by the deadline.

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**Tax Credit for Employing Ex-Offenders / [SB 1279](#)** (Senate Sponsor: Link, D-Vernon Hills; Senate Co-Sponsors: E. Jones, Lightford, Trotter, Hunter, Collins, Meeks, Raoul, Clayborne, Hendon. House Sponsor: Turner, D-Chicago; House Co-Sponsors: Washington, Howard, Golar, M. Davis, Yarbrough, Graham, Colvin, Miller, Collins, Jefferson, W. Davis)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Permits employers who hire ex-offenders to receive a tax credit of 5% of the employee's salary, or up to \$600 per qualified employee.

**Status:** The bill passed the Senate 31-12-6 on April 11, and passed the House 62-49-2 on May 4. The bill awaits the governor's signature.

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## **OTHER ISSUES**

**Energy Assistance / [HB 1744](#)** (House Sponsor: Colvin, D-Chicago; House Co-Sponsors: Currie; Reitz; Giles, Boland; Yarbrough; Moffitt; Howard, Washington, M. Davis, Flowers, Miller, Kelly, Graham; Younge; Dunkin; Golar; Rita, R. Bradley, Berrios, Chavez, Lindner, Schock; Parke, Cultra, Acevedo, Hamos, Pihos, Mendoza, L. Jones, Molaro. Senate Sponsor: Raoul, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsor: Collins, Harmon, Wilhelmi, Demuzio)

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Increases funds available for low-income energy assistance.

**Status:** The House passed the bill by a vote of 109-0 on January 26; and passed the Senate on March 28 unanimously. However, the bill was amended in the Senate, and the House must vote again to approve the Senate's amendments. The bill may be acted on during veto session in the fall.

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**DCFS—Grandparent Care / [HB 4526](#)** (House Sponsor: Currie, D-Chicago; House Co-Sponsors: L. Jones; Soto, Berrios, Chavez, Feigenholtz, Rita, Bellock, Jakobsson, Yarbrough, M. Davis, Fritchey, Black, Osterman; Senate Sponsor: Collins, D-Chicago; Senate Co-Sponsor: Raoul):

**AFC Position:** Support

**Issue:** Requires the Department of Children and Family Services to develop and administer a program of information and services for caregivers of children previously in Department custody, with respect to the future care and custody of those children.

**Status:** The House passed the bill by a vote of 113-0 on January 31; the bill was not called for a vote in the Senate.

This legislation was championed by the Families' and Children's AIDS Network