



GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 18, 2007

The Honorable Michael J. Madigan
Speaker
Illinois House of Representatives
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Speaker Madigan:

We, the undersigned, are writing to ask that you include two key HIV/AIDS and health-related initiatives in the FY 2008 budget request. They are an increase of \$2 million for improved public health infrastructure to provide local HIV/AIDS prevention and care services, and \$2 million for a new grants program to expand the routine offer of HIV testing in health care settings.

\$2 million for increased regional HIV prevention services: In FY 2006, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) granted \$3.22 million in GRF to local health departments and community-based organizations for HIV prevention services. We ask that you increase IDPH's GRF line-item by \$2 million for HIV prevention, for a total of \$5.22 million.

IDPH distributes these GRF funds to organizations in nine regions of the state based on a comprehensive plan produced by the state's HIV Prevention Community Planning Group and a similar group in Chicago. Funding is allocated based on the location of new HIV infections, and interventions are targeted to the racial and ethnic populations and risk group at greatest risk based on sound and timely epidemiology. In 2005, 43% of funds were targeted to serve African Americans, 42% for predominately white communities, 11% for Latinos, and 4% for Asians and other racial minorities.

A recent study shows that the lifetime cost of care for an HIV-positive person is \$680,000, not including essential social services like case management, food and nutrition, or mental health treatment. Because many newly HIV-positive individuals are low-income and lack health insurance, many will come to depend on Medicaid and other state-funded programs for services. Investing an additional \$2 million in public health infrastructure to respond to HIV/AIDS will save Illinois considerable amounts of money in future medical and social services costs, avoiding the huge drain on productivity that AIDS often entails.

\$2 million for increased HIV testing in medical settings and to implement HB 980:

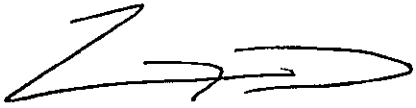
We are also asking for a new line item to expand HIV testing and implement HB 980 (Rep. Ford), landmark legislation that will allow HIV testing with verbal informed consent. In September 2006, the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that all people age 13-64 be offered voluntary tested for HIV when they visit a doctor's office, regardless of risk factors. CDC made this recommendation because an estimated one in four people living with HIV in the United States do not know they are infected. In Illinois, there are an estimated 40,000-42,000 people living with HIV, but an estimated 10,000 of them do not know they are HIV-positive. They lack the medical care that will extend their lives and delay the onset of costly AIDS-related medical care.

The proposed grants program, to be administered by IDPH, would target resources to public settings where a high number of HIV-positive individuals could be identified. Examples include hospital emergency departments, ambulatory care clinics, and STD clinics. Proposed uses of the funds include purchasing rapid HIV test kits, hiring staff to perform HIV testing and educate patients about HIV/AIDS, and training medical providers.

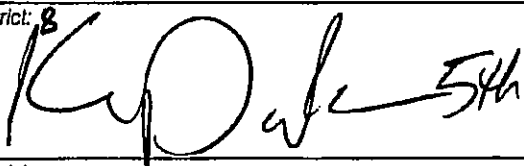
By offering routine tests for HIV to people in these high prevalence settings, some of the 10,000 undiagnosed Illinoisans living with HIV will be identified. They will be linked to medical care, likely averting costlier illnesses if their HIV status had remained undiagnosed. More importantly, they will be able to modify their behaviors to protect themselves and to avoid transmitting the virus to others.

Thank you for considering these requests. We look forward to working with you to fight the spread of HIV and improve access to healthcare for people with HIV and all uninsured Illinoisans.

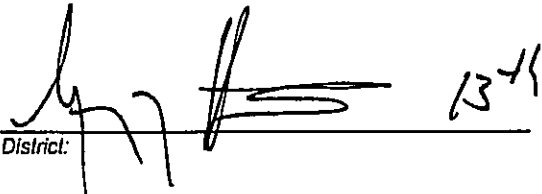
Sincerely,



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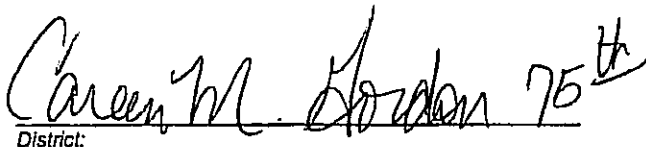
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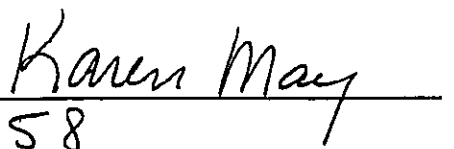
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Edward Gumbel 2ND
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R. C. Yu 83
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Debra Hernandez 34th
District:

Patricia Bellish
District: 47

J. L. Miller 112nd
District:

Countess A. Howard
District: 34

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District:

M. M. Seabright
District: 52

J. D. Fisher 63rd
District:

Ann Shook
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Suzanne Mendez D-01
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Robert Riley 38th
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26th St. Jefferson
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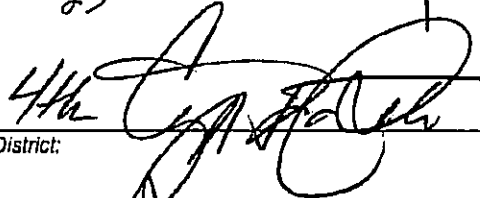
Debra Michelle 50th
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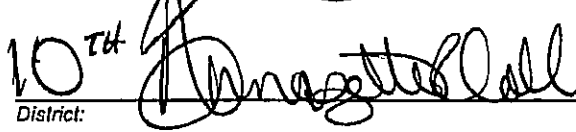
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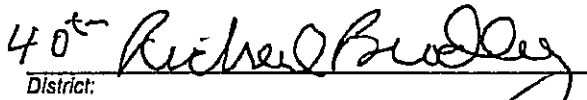
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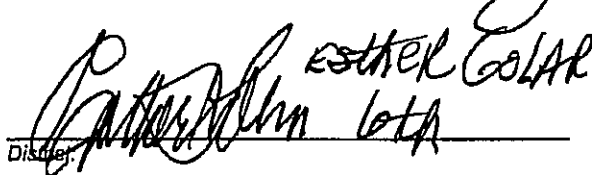
Sara Ferguson
District: 12

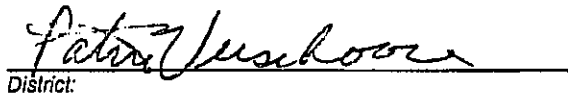

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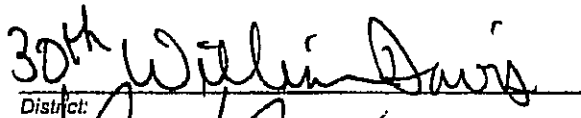
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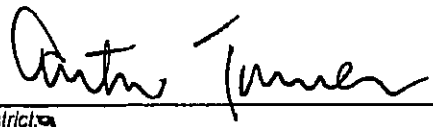
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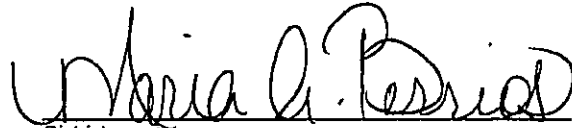

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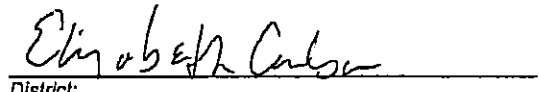

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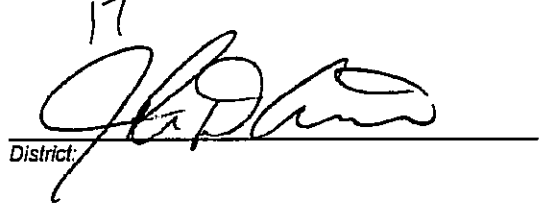
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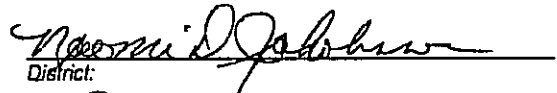

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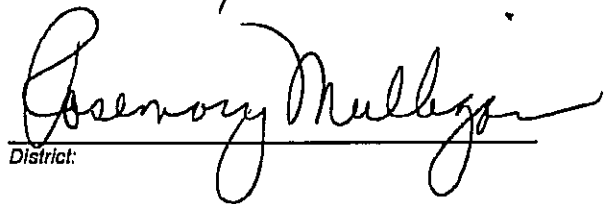

District: 39


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**40 Illinois Representatives Signing
FY 2008 HIV/AIDS Appropriations Letter**

Democrats

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|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Acevedo | 18. Hoffman |
| 2. Berrios | 19. Howard |
| 3. Bradley, R. | 20. Jakobsson |
| 4. Burke | 21. Jeffries |
| 5. Chapa LaVia | 22. Jefferson |
| 6. Collins | 23. Lang |
| 7. Crespo | 24. May |
| 8. D'Amico | 25. Mendoza |
| 9. Davis, W | 26. Osterman |
| 10. Dunkin | 27. Riley |
| 11. Feigenholtz | 28. Ryg |
| 12. Ford | 29. Soto |
| 13. Franks | 30. Turner |
| 14. Golard | 31. Verschoore |
| 15. Gordon | 32. Washington |
| 16. Harris | 33. Yarbrough |
| 17. Hernandez | |

Republicans

1. Beaubien
2. Bellock
3. Cole
4. Coulson
5. Mulligan
6. Munson
7. Schock