



**STATE TREK: March 3-4, 2009 • Springfield**  
**ILLINOIS HIV/AIDS LOBBY DAYS**

# **Illinois: BOLDLY GO**

where no state **HAS GONE BEFORE** *IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS*

MAIN MESSAGE: *HIV/AIDS affects virtually all Illinois residents and communities. This is my story and why I took time to participate in Illinois HIV/AIDS Lobby Days.*

## **Four requests:**

### **1. Maintain Illinois' commitment to essential HIV prevention and care services:**

- Despite the economic downturn, the epidemic continues to spread statewide with a disproportionate impact on communities of color.

### **2. Expand healthcare for ALL: Vote “yes” on two Senate Bills (SB 1331 and SB 1885) and two House Bills (HB 1081 and HB 3923)**

- In the U.S., an estimated 1 in 2 individuals with HIV has no access to healthcare.
- These bills will extend healthcare insurance to tens of thousands of residents.

### **3. Stop HIV among youth: Vote “yes” on House Bill 90 and House Bill 2354**

- Requiring health departments to notify the school principals of students with HIV serves no legitimate public health purpose but can inadvertently heighten stigma and discrimination against them and discourage voluntary HIV testing.
- A better approach would require schools to provide comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education to young people who are increasingly at risk for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

### **4. Prevent drug overdose deaths among drug users: Vote “yes” on House Bill 490**

- A safe, inexpensive, and easy-to-administer medication is available to stop overdose deaths. Access to it must be expanded.
- Preventing overdose deaths is a humanitarian response to the problem of drug addiction, which can lead to HIV and other health concerns.

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