

# AIDS Foundation OF CHICAGO

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## Support HB 4622

### Improving Access to Benefits for People with Disabilities

HB 4622 (Ryg) reforms the rules and processes used by the state to determine an individual's disability status for purposes of public benefits. The bill ensures that disabled people with HIV be treated fairly in efforts to receive public benefits for which they are eligible.

**HB 4622 will require the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) to determine disability status fairly, consistently, and in accordance with federal standards.**

- The bill will require two separate units within DHS to collaborate on disability determinations. In particular, the bills require record sharing between the office responsible for initial disability determinations for Social Security benefits and the office responsible for disability determinations for Medicaid.
- The bill requires the two state offices to follow the same rules and provision for determining disability.
- The bill creates new and simplified guidelines on the impact of a Social Security disability determination on Medicaid eligibility.
- The bill requires greater collaboration between these offices and other state agencies to maximize Medicaid eligibility for persons who are already receiving, or will receive, medical service from state agencies.
- Increased collaboration between these two state offices, and with other state agencies, will make disability determinations more efficient, accurate, and timely. It will also save the state money by ensuring that state programs receive federal matching funds for all eligible service recipients.

**HB 4622 will improve the way the state determines whether to approve Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals that provide emergency medical care for an uninsured individual.**

- The bill will require DHS to follow federal Medicaid law in determining an eligible emergency medical condition and will incorporate the federal definition for emergency medical conditions into state statute.
- The bill will clarify what weight the state should give to the opinions of treating physicians who provided the emergency medical care.

For more information, please contact Courtney Snyder of Health & Disability Advocates at (312) 223-9600.