AFC 2017 State Session Legislative Agenda

HB 2800
Partner Organizations: ACLU of Illinois, EverThrive IL, Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative (PACPI), IL Department of Public Health
Synopsis: Amends the Perinatal HIV Prevention Act. The CDC recommends a repeat test for women in the third trimester of pregnancy if women are determined to be at high risk for HIV, or live in an area of high prevalence for HIV. Illinois is on the CDC’s list of high-prevalence areas, because our statewide prevalence of HIV is 1% or greater. This legislation will add a third trimester HIV test for pregnant women in addition to the current first trimester test. AFC will fight to make sure pregnant women receive the most comprehensive HIV testing to ensure that no child is born in Illinois who is HIV-positive.

HB 1785
Partner Organizations: ACLU of Illinois, Equality Illinois
Bill Synopsis: Amends the Vital Records Act. This bill is a modernization of Illinois’ law that allows transgender individuals to change their gender designation on their birth certificate to reflect their lived gender identity without necessarily undergoing surgery. Many transgender individuals must undergo costly surgery before being allowed to change their birth designation.

HB 40
Bill Sponsors: Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago)
Bill Synopsis: This bill strikes a dangerous “trigger” provision in the Illinois abortion law and affirms that Illinois will not go back to the pre-Roe v Wade days of illegal abortion. By removing the anti-choice “trigger” language from the 1975 Act, HB 40 ensures that women’s health care will be protected in Illinois, regardless of what happens to the Supreme Court in a Trump administration. HB 40 also would allow Illinois to use state funds to provide women with health assistance funds that cover the full range of pregnancy-related care, including a woman’s decision to end a pregnancy.
HB 2694
Partner Organizations: American Cancer Society, Epilepsy Foundation Chicago
Bill Synopsis: Amends the Managed Care Reform and Patient Rights Act. Bans non-medical switching of prescriptions. States that the health care plan shall not modify an enrollee's coverage of a drug during the plan year if the drug has been previously approved for coverage by the plan for a medical condition, the plan's prescribing provider continues to prescribe the drug for the medical condition, and the patient continues to be an enrollee of the health care plan. This bill would help protect people living with HIV maintain the drug regimen that works best for them as coordinated with their health care providers.

HB 311
Partner Organizations: Illinois State Medical Society, Mental Health Summit, National Alliance on Mental Illness, AARP Illinois
Bill Synopsis: Creates the Network Adequacy and Transparency Act. Provides that administrators and insurers, prior to going to market, must file with the Department of Insurance for review and approval a description of the services to be offered through a network plan, with certain criteria included in the description. This legislation would help to ensure that health insurance providers maintain an adequate network of providers and have that information easily accessible to their members which will make it easier for people living with HIV to understand where they can seek care.

HR 60
Bill Sponsors: Rep. Thaddeus Jones (D-South Holland)

Come to Advocacy Days in Springfield! In 2016, over 4,800 people engaged in direct advocacy from across the state with AFC’s support. We’ll be doing it again in 2017 on Tuesday, April 4 and Wednesday, May 17. Visit www.aidschicago.org/advocacydays to register.