

## End of session legislative report & budget overview

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) led and partnered on the following bills during the 2016 Illinois General Assembly regular session. The bills are described below.

### SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION

#### **HOUSE BILL 4554** – “Mandated Medicaid PrEP Coverage”

**Chief Sponsors:** [Rep. Mary Flowers](#) (D-Chicago) & [Sen. Terry Link](#) (D-Gurnee)

**Introduced:** Jan. 27, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC along with coalition partners. This legislation codifies existing practice within the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to mandate that Illinois’ Medicaid program provide coverage for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), both the medication and associated program. The bill was unopposed. No other state in the nation has mandated Medicaid coverage of PrEP.

**Status:** The bill passed both houses of the General Assembly unanimously. On Friday, Aug. 12, 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner signed HB 4554 into law, becoming Public Act 99-0772. [Read the Bill](#)

#### **HOUSE BILL 6213** – “Empowering Meaningful Patient Choice in Medicaid Managed Care Act”

**Chief Sponsors:** [Rep. Carol Ammons](#) (D-Champaign) & [Sen. Daniel Biss](#) (D-Skokie)

**Introduced:** Feb. 11, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC along with coalition partners (EverThrive, Heartland Alliance, Shriver Center on Poverty Law, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and others), HB 6213 puts in place measures to ensure the Medicaid Managed Care enrollees are being presented with all relevant information in order to make an informed choice. HB 6213 does this through improving the provider directory; enhancing formulary usability; improving communications related to grievances and appeals, Medicaid redetermination, and care coordination; and creating a consumer focused health plan quality comparison tool.

**Status:** The bill passed both houses of the General Assembly unanimously. On Friday, Aug. 5, 2016, Governor Rauner signed HB 6213 into law, becoming Public Act 99-0725. [Read the Bill](#)

#### **SENATE BILL 2397** – “Quality of Life Lottery Fund Extension”

**Chief Sponsors:** [Sen. Jacqueline Collins](#) (D-Chicago) & [Rep. Thaddeus Jones](#) (D-Calumet City)

**Introduced:** Feb. 3, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC along with community partners, SB 2397 extends the Illinois Quality of Life scratch off fund to 2025. This extension allows Red Ribbon Cash lottery ticket sales to fund HIV/AIDS preventative services for an additional eight years. The Red Ribbon Cash Lottery ticket sales provides a funding source for HIV preventative services that amount to approximately \$2 million each year.

**Status:** On Friday, Aug. 12, 2016, Governor Rauner signed SB 2397 into law, becoming Public Act 99-0791. [Read the Bill](#)

**HOUSE BILL 5524** – “Medicaid HIV Viral Load Reporting”

**Chief Sponsor:** [Rep. Greg Harris](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** Feb. 9, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC, HB 5524 mandated that Illinois Medicaid would institute a quality metric to measure Medicaid enrollees’ viral load suppression.

**Status:** HB 5524 was referred to the Rules Committee and never assigned to a Committee. [Read the Bill](#)

**HOUSE BILL 5559** – “Medicaid Access Monitoring Act”

**Chief Sponsor:** [Rep. Litesa Wallace](#) (D-Rockford)

**Introduced:** Feb. 9, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC along with coalition partners (EverThrive, Heartland Alliance, Shriver Center on Poverty Law, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and others), HB 5559 requires the state to directly test a sample of each Medicaid managed care plan’s provider network to ensure contact information is accurate, that the providers listed are participating and accepting new patients, and determine the wait time to obtain an initial appointment.

**Status:** HB 5559 was referred to the House Human Services Committee but never called for a vote. [Read the Bill](#)

**HOUSE BILL 6073** – “Vital Records Modernization Act”

**Chief Sponsor:** [Rep. Greg Harris](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** Feb. 11, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC, along with coalition partners ALCU and Equality Illinois, HB 6073 allows transgender Illinoisans to change their birth certificate gender designation to reflect their lived gender identity prior to undergoing surgery.

**Status:** HB 6073 was passed out of the House Human Services Committee on a vote of 8-6-0. It never came up for a debate before the full House and has been referred back to Rules Committee. [Read the Bill](#)

### **APPROPRIATIVE LEGISLATION**

When Governor Bruce Rauner took office in January of 2015, he did so with the request that the General Assembly not extend the 2011 state income tax increase, which would drop the state individual income tax rate from 5.0% to 3.75% and the business rate from 7.0% to 5.0%. The General Assembly obliged the governor, which has resulted in too little revenue to cover the cost of funding important state services and programs. Since then, there has been little movement on raising revenue to sufficient levels and little interest in cutting these popular and life-saving programs. Because of this, in July of 2015, the state entered into a soft shutdown. This means that court orders, consent decrees, continuing appropriations, and bills passed when calamity is imminent (such as a federal pass-through budget and higher education stopgap budget) have kept the state floating along. There continues to be no structural, long-term solution in place, and little agreement between the Executive and Legislative branches on how to solve the issue.

### **SENATE BILL 2047** – Stop-Gap Appropriations

**Chief Sponsors:** [Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie](#) (D-Chicago) & [Sen. Donne Trotter](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** House Amendment 5 – June 30, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC, this legislation provided a stopgap appropriation designed to cover Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 and the first six months of FY 2017. Though the bill contained drastic cuts to HIV-specific lines, any funds were made available was viewed as a positive step. The HIV Lump Sum received \$17.9 million for those 18 months, while the African American HIV/AIDS Response Act (AAARA) received two appropriations (one for each fiscal year) of \$500,000, though from a fund without available cash. Supportive Housing received three appropriations \$13.7 million for those 18 months.

**Status:** SB 2047 was signed into law by Governor Rauner on June 30, 2016, becoming Public Act 99-0524. [Read the Bill](#)

### **SENATE BILL 2048** – FY 17 Budget

**Chief Sponsors:** [Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie](#) (D-Chicago) and [Senate President John Cullerton](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** House Amendments 1 & 2 – May 25, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC, this bill would have provided funding for HIV services and Supportive Housing at levels consistent with the FY 16 budget passed (and later vetoed by Governor Rauner) in May of 2015. The HIV Lump Sum received \$23 million, the AAARA \$1.25 million, and Supportive Housing \$11 million. It did not contain items, such as Medicaid, that were covered by Court Orders.

**Status:** SB 2048 passed the House on May 26, 2016. It was brought up for a concurrence vote in the Senate on May 31, 2016, where it failed to receive enough votes for passage. [Read the Bill](#)

### **SENATE BILL 2038** – Human Services Stop Gap

**Chief Sponsors:** [House Speaker Michael Madigan](#) (D-Chicago) & [Senate President John Cullerton](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** House Amendment 2 – May 11, 2016

**AFC Position:** Supported by AFC, this bill contained line items were appropriated at roughly 40% of their FY 15 levels for the human services sector, with the HIV Lump Sum receiving \$10.5 million, the AAARA receiving \$572,000, and Supportive Housing receiving two appropriations that amounted to approximately \$8 million.

**Status:** SB 2038 passed both houses of the General Assembly on May 12, 2016. It was vetoed by Governor Rauner on July 1, 2016. No attempt at a Veto Override has yet been made. [Read the Bill](#)

### **SENATE BILL 2059** – Human Services and Higher Education Funding

**Chief Sponsors:** [Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie](#) (D-Chicago) & [Senate President John Cullerton](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** House Amendment 1 – April 22, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Initially supported by AFC, this legislation provided funding for the FY 16 budget for human services and higher education that had not been covered by court orders, consent decrees or continuing appropriations. The funding levels were mostly in line with the budget passed by the General Assembly (and later vetoed by Governor Rauner) in May of 2015. The HIV Lump Sum received \$23 million, the AAARA \$1.25 million, and Supportive Housing \$11 million. Before passage, all human services portions of the bill were removed, and the funding for higher education was lowered.

**Status:** HB 2990 passed both houses after being amended to only include funding for higher education and was signed by Governor Rauner on April 25, 2016, becoming Public Act 99-0502. [Read the Bill](#)

**HOUSE BILL 2990** – Human Services & Higher Education Funding

**Chief Sponsors:** [Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie](#) (D-Chicago) & [Senate President John Cullerton](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** Senate Amendment 1 – May 31, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC, this legislation provided funding for the FY 16 budget that had not been covered by court orders, consent decrees, or continuing appropriations. The funding levels were in line with the budget passed by the General Assembly (and later vetoed by Governor Rauner) in May of 2015. The HIV Lump Sum received \$23 million, the AAARA \$1.25 million, and Supportive Housing \$13 million.

**Status:** HB 2990 passed the House with 70 votes, and then, after being amended in the Senate, passed that house with 37 voted. While Governor Rauner threatened to veto the measure, it was never taken up on a vote to concur in the House, and has been re-assigned to the House Rules Committee. [Read the Bill](#)

### **AFC ADVOCACY**

In 2016, AFC has engaged 4,300 people in direct advocacy, placed 50 stories with 25 million impressions, and had an incredible turnout for our Advocacy Days.

Over 100 individuals and organizations took to social media to advocate for Springfield to pass a positive budget on AFC's Virtual Advocacy Day. Advocates sent over 1,000 tweets/posts and reaching over 150,000 social media users.

In addition to such a great showing for our Virtual Advocacy Day, AFC had its best Springfield Advocacy Days ever, with 62 advocated participating in April, and 163 in May. That is 225 members of the community travelling to Springfield from throughout Illinois for a day of engaging in direct advocacy of their elected officials.