END OF SESSION WRAPUP

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LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

• Beginning January 28, legislators in both chambers convened for 14 days before being indefinitely paused on March 16 due to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) Shelter-In-Place Executive Order (EO).

• This Legislative Session was condensed into only 19 days instead of the originally scheduled 53 days.

• The state legislature convened a special session from May 20 to May 24, ensuring passage of a state budget and other essential legislation – including an expansion of vote-by-mail, Fair Tax ballot language for the November election, and COVID-19 relief package.

• This legislative session can be broken down into two parts: pre-COVID and COVID.
PRE-COVID POLICY PRIORITIES

- IL Healthy Youth Act
- Prescription Drug Affordability Bill
- HIV Criminalization
- Bring Chicago Home
- Healthy Illinois for All
- Health Care Affordability Study
- HIV/STI Funding Asks
HB 5012/SB3788: IL HEALTHY YOUTH ACT

- Legislation that would modernize the state’s sexual health education curriculum to one that is more inclusive and affirming.
- IL Healthy Youth Act removes outdated, stigmatizing language and builds on current standards for health and sexual health education courses.
- Due to COVID-19, this bill was not heard in the House Elementary and Secondary Education: School Curriculum & Policies Committee and did not advance in the legislative process.
HB3493: PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD

• Legislation that would create an independent, nonpartisan body tasked with reviewing high-cost prescription drug prices and setting appropriate upper payment limits.

• We are working with the Protect Our Care coalition on this measure. AFC is a leading organization of POCIL.

• We were unable to get this measure out of the House Prescription Affordability and Accessibility Committee.
HIV CRIMINALIZATION

• “HIV criminalization” refers to the overly broad use of criminal law to penalize alleged, perceived or potential HIV exposure; alleged nondisclosure of a known HIV-positive status prior to sexual contact (including acts that do not risk HIV transmission); or nonintentional HIV transmission.

• AFC is working with the Illinois HIV Action Alliance (IHAA) coalition on this effort.
SB3243/HB4826: BRING CHICAGO HOME

- This bill speaks to two important issues:
  - Addressing the city of Chicago’s budget deficit
  - Creating dedicated funding to address homelessness
- AFC, Pride Action Tank (PAT) and the Center for Housing and Health (CHH) are partnering with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and other organizations through the Bring Chicago Home Campaign to address this important issue.
- Due to COVID-19, this bill did not advance in the legislative process.
HB4891/SB3703: HEALTHY ILLINOIS FOR ALL

• This legislation extends Medicaid eligibility to all low-income Illinois residents aged 19 and older, with household incomes of up to 138% FPL ($17,236/year single person) regardless of their immigration status.

• Amended language provides medical coverage for all seniors, aged 65 and older with incomes at or below 100% Federal Poverty Line ($12,760/year single person) regardless of immigration status.

• We are working with the Healthy Illinois coalition on this measure.
HB5442: HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY

• This bill, a healthcare initiative from Governor Pritzker’s office, requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) to conduct a feasibility study to explore options to make health insurance more affordable for Illinois residents.

• Language from this legislation was included in the final omnibus health care package passed by the Illinois General Assembly.
IL STATE BUDGET: HIV & OTHER STIS FUNDING

• $2.1 million increase in state funding in FY21 for HIV treatment and prevention services
  • Includes HIV testing, PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) and the African-American HIV/AIDS Response Act

• $900,000 in new state funding to address the growing rates of STI diagnoses across the state
  • Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis

• The Illinois General Assembly passed mostly level funding for the FY21 budget
  • HIV Lump Sum: $28,580,400 (FY21 State Appropriations)
COVID-19 FUNDING ASKS

• $57 million in additional state funding to meet essential housing and human needs of people living with HIV, people who use PrEP, and people vulnerable to HIV
  • Including transportation, food, rent, utility assistance, and unlimited minutes, texts, and data (for cell phones to contact loved ones and access healthcare)

• $1 million investment in Black-led and Latinx-led HIV community-based organizations in Illinois to help them weather the economic downturn

• Of the total $3.9 billion in COVID-19 relief funding, $1.1 billion is appropriated with communities of color in mind, though not specifically directed at Black and Latinx people living with or vulnerable to HIV.
FY21 BUDGET: PRE-COVID-19 BUDGET OUTLOOK

• On February 19, 2020, Governor Pritzker released his $42 billion Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

• Highlights:
  • 1.6% increase from FY2020 revised base estimates
  • Revenues from adult-use cannabis were expected to generate $46 million for transfer to the General Funds in FY2021.
  • $100 million to the Rainy-Day Fund over the next 16 months (currently only has $1.19 million)
  • $40 million increase in mental health and addiction treatment services
  • $4.5 million to restore the vital Health Care Navigator program
FY21 BUDGET: COVID-19 BUDGET OUTLOOK

- In April, the Illinois Office of Management and Budget predicted revenues would drop by more than $4.6 billion for fiscal year 2021.

- Moody’s Analytics projected an even steeper drop in total revenue of between $5.2 billion and $6.9 billion depending on the severity of the economic contraction.

- It calls for $42.8 billion in spending, which exceeds available resources by nearly $6 billion.

- Illinois will spend $2.4 billion or nearly 6% more than last year’s (FY20) $40.4 billion budget.
  - Department of Human Services: Total Funding $7.5 billion
  - Department of Healthcare and Family Services (Covering Illinois’ Medicaid Program): Total Funding: $29 billion
FY21 BUDGET: HEALTHCARE NEEDS

• Expands Medicaid coverage for pregnant women from 60 days to 1-year post-partum

• Increases rates to FQHCs and Community Health Centers

• $385 million to provide support to providers of long-term care services with an additional $50 million to support providers offering long-term care services to disproportionately impacted areas, based on positive COVID-19 cases.

• $150 million to support FQHCs with an additional $40 million to support FQHCs that serve disproportionately impacted areas, based on positive COVID-19 cases.

• $190 million to support ambulance providers, medical assistance providers, excluding specialized mental health rehabilitation facilities.

• $14.6 million to support specialized mental health rehabilitation facilities.

• $30 million for mental health, substance abuse and other counseling services and assistance for individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

• $19.8 million to nine specific hospitals, which were determined by looking at some of the most Medicaid-dependent providers in the state
FY21 BUDGET: COVID-19 BUDGET OUTLOOK

• Dealing with the $6 billion deficit:
  • Congressional COVID-19 Relief Package
    • Potential 4th COVID relief package that will include money to states to help ease their state budget issues
  • State Borrowing
    • SB2099, the Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (CURE) Borrowing Act, that authorizes borrowing of up to $5 billion through the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Liquidity Facility (MLF) or a similar federal program.
    • The General Assembly authorized Illinois to borrow through the program for up to ten years.
  • Sale of Backlog Bonds
    • To balance the FY2021 budget, the General Assembly also included about $1.2 billion from the sale of backlog bonds
ODDS & ENDS: TELEHEALTH

• March 19, 2020: Governor Pritzker signed an executive order requiring health insurance companies and Medicaid to cover services by in-network providers via telephone or video technology (telehealth) at the same rate as in-person visits for as long as his Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation is in effect. That includes those related to mental health and substance abuse.

• SB1864 H. Amdt. #5: Would extend telehealth services for up to 12 months past the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency
  • Insurance lobby would not support this measure. Telehealth portion of this bill moved to another bill for action.

• SB671 H. Amdt. #2: Would extend telehealth services until December 31, 2020
  • Measure voted by House but not by Senate. Telehealth is expected to be discussed during Fall Veto Session.
ODDS & ENDS: FAIR TAX

• On November 3, 2020, Illinois voters will have an opportunity to vote on the Fair Tax constitutional amendment.

• What the Fair Tax would do for Illinois:
  • Lift the burden off of lower and middle-income Illinoisans by asking the wealthiest to pay their fair share
  • Ensure at least 97% of Illinoisans see their taxes cut or remain the same
  • Require only individuals making over $250,000 a year to pay more
  • Generate additional revenue to fund our schools and lower the property tax burden
  • Address Illinois’ structural budget deficit and put the state on the path toward fiscal sustainability
ODDS & ENDS: VOTE BY MAIL

Legislature passed SB1863 that requires election authorities to send vote-by-mail applications for the Nov. 3 general election to the 5 million voters who participated in the following elections:
  - 2018 general election
  - 2019 municipal elections
  - March 2020 primary elections

The law requires voters who submit an application for a mail-in ballot before Oct. 1 to get their ballot no later than Oct. 6.

Additional information
  - Expands early voting hours to require polls to be open from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. (weekdays) and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (weekends and holidays) while allowing curbside voting
  - 16-year-olds may now serve as election judges
  - Election Day (November 3) is a holiday for schools, which frees up school buildings
ODDS & ENDS: MEDICAID CLINICAL TRIALS

- The Affordable Care Act (ACA) includes regulations regarding insurance coverage of clinical trials. Specifically, the ACA states that health plans or insurers cannot:
  - Keep patients from joining a clinical trial.
  - Limit or deny coverage of routine costs to patients who join an approved clinical trial.
  - Increase costs because a patient joins a clinical trial.

- Medicare generally covers most clinical trial costs.

- The General Assembly adopted the language in the final omnibus health care package that mandates that Medicaid now cover "approved clinical trials."
ODDS & ENDS: HOSPITAL ASSESSMENT

• Legislators passed SB2541, a bill that renews the Illinois Hospital Assessment and that will give the state substantial additional funding for Illinois safety-net hospitals.

• The new plan includes $250 million in increases through the hospital assessment program, $50 million in physician rate increases, and $150 million for a hospital transformation fund to help hospitals facing difficulties change what type of institution they are in the interest of more cost-effectively providing care to their community.

• The new plan enables hospitals in under-resourced communities to improve health care access and address social determinants of health.
WHAT’S NEXT?

• AFC Policy & Advocacy Team currently working on new process for identifying our policy priorities in 2021
• Veto Session (November 17-19; December 1-3)
• Sign-up for AFC’s Policy & Advocacy Action Center (https://p2a.co/jlaKyko)
ANY QUESTIONS?

Q & A

You have Questions

We have Answers
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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