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## End of Session Legislative Report & Budget Overview

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) led and partnered on the following bills during the 2014 Illinois General Assembly regular session. The bills are described below.

### Sustainable Revenue & State Budget

#### **HOUSE BILL 6096, HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 – “FY15 Human Services Budget”**

**Introduced by:** Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) & Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago)  
Sen. Heather Steans (D-Chicago) & Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago)

**Introduced on:** April 1, 2014

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported

AFC and coalition partners succeeded in the passage of House Bill (HB 6096) House Amendment 1, which provides both an increase in HIV funding of \$1 million and also stopped a \$4 million cut. This cut would have directly affected the AIDS Drug Assistance Program which would affect low-income HIV positive people being able to receive their needed medications. This bill also increased supportive housing funding by \$2.6 million, which will enroll an additional 896 people living with HIV or other chronic diseases.

**Status:** On Friday, May 30, 2014, the last day of session, the bill passed both chambers and was voted on by the Senate 40-17-1. AFC and partners will continue to educate legislators on the importance of this bill. [Read the Bill](#)

**SJRCA 40 (Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment)**  
**HJRCA 49 (House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment)**

**"FAIR TAX ACT"**  
**CAMPAIGN**

**Introduced by:** Sen. Don Harmon (D-Oak Park), Rep. Christian L. Mitchell (D-Chicago)

**Introduced on:** 4/2/2014

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported

This resolution would have put a question on the ballot about whether Illinois' constitution should be changed to allow for a fair tax, where higher incomes pay higher rates and lower-income households pay lower rates. Illinois currently has a constitutionally mandated flat tax.

**This resolution was supported by the Fair Tax Campaign.**

**Status:** These resolutions did not advance this year. The next time that the issue of changing Illinois' tax structure can be brought to the ballot is 2016. [Read SJRCA 40](#)

**HOUSE BILL 395 HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 – "5% income tax rate extension"**

**Introduced by:** Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago)

**Introduced on:** 5/19/2014

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported

This bill would have extended the temporary state income tax (now 5 percent) to close a \$2 billion dollar state budget shortfall. In 2011, the legislature raised the income tax from 3 to 5 percent for four years to close a budget gap caused by declining tax revenue. The higher tax rate is set to roll back on Dec. 31, 2014. The failure to extend current tax rates will impact funding for human service programs, including HIV services, in future fiscal years.

**Status:** This bill was not called for a vote in the House Revenue Committee because it did not have sufficient support from legislators. [Read the Bill](#)

**SENATE BILL 741, HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 – "OMNIBUS MEDICAID BILL"**

**Introduced by:** Sen. Donne E. Trotter (D-Chicago), Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago)

**Introduced on:** 5/26/14

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported

This very significant bill amends the state Medicaid program through multiple provisions. This bill restores some services cut by the legislature in 2011 with the SMART Act. Most importantly, after a multiyear campaign in which AFC played a key role, adult dental services were restored. Previously, only emergency extractions were available for adults. In addition, all antipsychotic drugs are exempted from the [four-drug limit](#). The bill makes a number of other changes to Medicaid financing and policy. Also included is a grant for costs associated with specialized child care for families affected by HIV/AIDS. [House Bill 6060 House Amendment 2](#) is a companion bill that provides funding for SB 741. Read the Illinois Medicaid SB 741 [Fact Sheet](#) from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

**Status:** This bill passed both chambers and the Governor signed it into law. Effective Date June 16, 2014. [Read the Bill](#)

**HOUSE BILL 3814, HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 –“MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE REFERENDUM ACT”**

**Introduced by:** Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago)

**Introduced on:** 1/3/14

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported

This bill creates the Minimum Wage Increase Referendum Act and requires the State Board of Elections to place a question on the Nov. 4, 2014, general election ballot. This will be a question asking voters if the minimum wage in Illinois for adults over the age of 18 should be raised to \$10 per hour by Jan. 1, 2015. This is a non-binding referendum, meaning no matter the outcome it will not change the law but rather voice the will of the people to the legislature.

**Status** This bill passed both chambers and was signed into law by the Governor on June 23, 2014.

[Read the bill.](#)

**HOUSE BILL 3638, SENATE AMENDMENT 2 & 3 –“Prior Authorization & Marketplace Transparency Bill”**

**Introduced by:** Sen. Dan Kotowski (D-Park Ridge) and Rep. Laura Fine (D- Glenview)

**Introduced on:** 5/16/2014

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported

This legislation aims to improve the prior authorization process for patients to get access to crucial medications. This legislation will improve the health of thousands of Illinois patients by eliminating what can be days and even weeks of delay. The bill essentially requires insurance companies to streamline the medication coverage approval process and guarantee that a prior authorization request for medications is approved or denied by an insurance company within 72 hours. In emergencies, that approval or denial time moves to 24 hours.

The legislation also aims to improve the state's health insurance marketplace by requiring insurers to be more transparent and provide consumers with additional information about insurance coverage and medication costs in each plan. The bill requires plans to display an up-to-date formulary where a consumer can view, in one location, covered prescriptions; information on prescription tiering and the cost-sharing structure for each tier; information about how a consumer can obtain specific copayment amounts or coinsurance percentages for a plan; and the most recently published provider directory, where a consumer can view the provider network that applies to each qualified health plan and information about the provider, contact information, location, etc.

**Status:** This bill passed both chambers and has been sent to the Governor for his signature or veto.

[Read the bill.](#)

### **HOUSE BILL 2747, SENATE AMENDMENT 3 – “GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT”**

**Introduced by:** Sen. Dan Kotowski (D- Park Ridge)

**Introduced on:** 5/26/14

**AFC Policy Position:** No Position

This bill aims to improve the state’s grant-making activities. The bill will create a grant management office in the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget that will develop uniform guidelines for grant management across state agencies. The state will also be required to follow federal guidelines and processes established by the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Read the Grant Accountability and Transparency [Fact Sheet](#) from the Donor’s Forum.

**Status:** This bill passed both chambers and was signed into law by the Governor on July 16, 2014.

[Read the bill.](#)

### **HOUSE BILL 5925, SENATE AMENDMENT 1 – “ILLINOIS HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE”**

**Introduced by:** Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), Sen. Mattie Hunter (D-Chicago)

**Introduced on:** 5/6/2014

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported

This bill balances the right of people with HIV to protect their medical information from unauthorized disclosure in the community while providing opportunities to improve patient care by making HIV medical information available to the patient’s health care team. The bill amends and modernizes the Illinois AIDS Confidentiality Act and brings it into alignment with federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Because the AIDS Confidentiality Act passed a decade before HIPAA, there are a number of inconsistencies between the two laws that hinder sharing information about HIV medical care within health care settings and make it difficult to include HIV information in electronic medical records. This bill was an initiative of the Governor’s Office of Health Innovation and Technology. AFC, AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, ACLU of Illinois, Howard Brown Health Center and the Chicago Department of Public Health worked to negotiate provisions in the bill.

**Status:** This bill passed both chambers and awaits the Governor’s signature or veto. [Read the bill.](#)

### **HOUSE BILL 4501, HOUSE AMENDMENT 1 & 2 - “MINOR CONSENT TO MEDICAL CARE BILL”**

**Introduced by:** Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago)

**Introduced on:** 3/19/2014

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported

Currently, minors in Illinois need to be accompanied by an adult/guardian to receive medical attention. This is a problem for homeless youth and youth with no parental involvement. This bill allows a minor who is seeking medical care to receive treatment and make sound medical decisions for themselves. The medical professional would have to deem that the minor is an "unaccompanied minor" and would have to meet the following criteria:

- Living separate and apart from his or her parents or legal guardian, whether with or without the consent of a parent or legal guardian and regardless of the duration of the separate residence.
- Managing his or her own personal affairs and consents to a medical or surgical procedure by a health care provider.

**Status:** This bill passed both chambers and was signed into law by the Governor on June 26, 2014. This law goes into effect on Oct. 1, 2014. [Read the bill.](#)