

## End of Session Legislative Report & Budget Overview

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) led and partnered on the following bills during the 2017 Illinois General Assembly regular session. The bills are described below.

### SUBSTANTIVE LEGISLATION

#### **HOUSE BILL 2800** – “Third Trimester HIV Testing”

**Chief Sponsors:** [Representative Mary Flowers](#) (D-Chicago) & [Senator Donne Trotter](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** February 8, 2017

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC along with coalition partners PACPI, ACLU IL, EverThrive IL, Illinois Department of Public Health, and Illinois Health & Hospital Association. This legislation will add a third trimester HIV test for pregnant women in addition to the current first trimester test. AFC and our partners believe this legislation is critical to make sure pregnant women receive the most comprehensive HIV testing to ensure that no child is born in Illinois who is HIV-positive.

**Status:** The bill passed both houses of the General Assembly unanimously. As of this writing it has been sent to the Governor for his signature or veto. [Read the Bill](#)

#### **HOUSE BILL 1785** – “Vital Records Modernization Act”

**Chief Sponsors:** [Representative Greg Harris](#) (D-Chicago) & [Senator Toi Hutchinson](#) (D-Chicago Heights)

**Introduced:** February 1, 2017

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

**Status:** The bill passed both of the houses of the General Assembly, 63-43-1 in the House and 32-22-0 in the Senate. As of this writing it has been sent to the Governor for his signature or veto. [Read the Bill](#)

#### **HOUSE BILL 40** – “Medicaid Abortion Coverage & Federal Trigger Removal”

**Chief Sponsors:** [Representative Sara Feigenholtz](#) (D-Chicago) & [Senator Heather Steans](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** December 20, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC as part of a broad coalition led by Planned Parenthood and ACLU-IL, 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.

**Status:** The legislation passed both houses, 62-55-0 in the House, and 33-22-0 in the Senate. As of this writing it has yet to be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto, though he has in the press stated he would veto the bill. [Read the Bill](#)

**HOUSE BILL 311** – “Network Adequacy & Transparency Act”

**Chief Sponsors:** [Representative Greg Harris](#) (D-Chicago) & [Senator Linda Holmes](#) (D-Aurora)

**Introduced:** January 10, 2017

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC as part of a broad coalition led by the Illinois Medical Society, establishes network adequacy standards for insurance companies operating in Illinois, requiring continuity of care at in-network rates for people who are undergoing treatment for serious illness should their doctor, hospital or pharmacy be dropped from an insurance company network in the middle of the policy year, and requiring greater and accuracy of provider information on insurance company websites. Additionally, this bill makes a specific list of specialty providers, one of which is an HIV provider.

**Status:** This legislation passed the House 110-2-1 and the Senate 53-0-0 but has yet to be sent to the Governor for his signature or veto. [Read the Bill](#)

**HOUSE BILL 2694** – “Ban on Non-Medical Switching”

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

**Introduced:** February 8, 2017

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC as part of a broad coalition, this bill 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.

**Status:** This legislation was assigned to the House Human Services committee and ultimately not called for a hearing before the committee. [Read the Bill](#)

**HOUSE BILL 1317** – “Federal Waiver Legislative Approval”

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

**Introduced:** May 22, 2017

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported by AFC, this legislation would require the Governor to receive legislative approval of any waiver application the state sought to submit to the federal government.

**Status:** This legislation passed out of the House Human Services Committee but has yet to pass the House. [Read the Bill](#)

**SENATE BILL 1657** – “Gun Dealer Licensing Act”

**Chief Sponsor:** [Senator Don Harmon](#) (D-Oak Park) & [Representative Kathleen Willis](#) (D-Northlake)

**Introduced:** February 9, 2017

**AFC Policy Position:** Supported AFC as part of a broad coalition led by the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition, this legislation encourages better business practices among gun dealers and hold corrupt dealers accountable. It seeks to help curb a major source of illegally trafficked firearms from entering our communities by licensing Illinois gun dealers.

**Status:** This legislation passed the Senate 30-21-1. It has yet to be called for a vote in the House.

## APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION

When Governor 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, meaning that court orders, consent decrees, continuing appropriations, and bills passed when calamity is imminent (such as a federal pass-through budget and higher education stop gap 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.

The Senate in 2017 became the focus of talks in an attempt to end the impasse, with Republicans and Democrats negotiating what they referred to as the “Grand Bargain” to cover the budget, revenue, and non-budgetary items such as pension fixes and workers’ compensation reform. Though a deal seemed possible, Governor Rauner intervened at the last minute and encouraged Republicans to not vote for the bills in the Grand Bargain, saying they did not do enough. As a result, the Democrats in the Senate moved forward with their own budget and revenue bill they felt was reasonable. Those pieces of legislation did not receive any support from Republican Senators nor was the House involved in their drafting.

In late June, Governor Rauner called for a 10-day Special Session. During that time, legislative leaders met to hash out a budget and address other legislative demands made by Governor Rauner. Though that special session ended without a resolution, legislators in both houses stayed and worked in Springfield through the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday and passed a balanced budget and revenue package to fund that budget. After vetoes from the Governor on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Senate promptly overrode those vetoes the same day, with the House doing the same on July 6<sup>th</sup>, finally bringing an end to the over two-year long budget impasse.

There has been a reduction in HIV diagnosis in both Central and Southern Illinois as a direct result of the Illinois budget impasse. With a reduction in funding for HIV testing, statewide there have been 245 less people diagnosed with HIV during the impasse. Things are only going to get worse for the HIV epidemic in Illinois, as well as public health outcomes in general, if there is not adequate funding for programs designed to improve health outcomes and stem the spread of infectious diseases throughout our state.

**SENATE BILL 6 HOUSE AMENDMENT 2** – “State Budget for Remainder of FY 17 & All of FY 18”

**Chief Sponsor:** [Representative Greg Harris](#) (D-Chicago) & [Senator Heather Steans](#) (D-Chicago)

**Introduced:** June 27, 2016

**AFC Policy Position:** This budget reflects what AFC considers appropriate and necessary funding levels for HIV prevention, treatment, and education as well as for supportive housing. The appropriation levels contained in the amendment as related to HIV services are as follows:

**FY 17:**

- HIV Lump Sum (GRF): \$14,688,200
- For grants and other expenses for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and the creation of an HIV/AIDS service delivery system to reduce the disparity of HIV infection and AIDS cases between African-Americans and other population groups (GRF): \$975,000
- Supportive Housing (GRF): \$8,456,600

**FY 18:**

- HIV Lump Sum (GRF): \$25,415,000
- For Expenses of Programs for Prevention of AIDS/HIV (Public Health Services Fund): \$6,250,000
- Surveillance (Public Health Services Fund): \$1,750,000
- Ryan White (Public Health Services Fund): \$55,000,000
- For grants and other expenses for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and the creation of an HIV/AIDS service delivery system to reduce the disparity of HIV infection and AIDS cases between African-Americans and other population groups (GRF): \$1,218,000
- AAARA (AAARF): \$200,000
- Quality of Life (Quality of Life Fund): \$1,500,000
- Supportive Housing (GRF): \$13,429,400
- Supportive Housing (Health & Human Services Medicaid Trust Fund): \$3,382,500

**Status:** This budget became law after passing both houses with supermajorities and overriding a veto from Governor Rauner. [Read the Bill](#)

**SENATE BILL 9 – “State Revenue Package”**

**Chief Sponsors:** Senator Toi Hutchinson (D- Chicago Heights) & Representative Will Davis (D-Hazel Crest)

**Introduced:** May 23, 2017

**AFC Policy Position:** With the damage done by this impasse, there is no easy way to bring solvency back to Illinois. As a result, there either needs to be new revenue, budget cuts, or some of both. The package of SB 6 and SB 9 represent the third option, raising the state income tax to 4.95% and levying other taxes on a variety of other services, such as satellite television. Because of the hole we are in, AFC supported this legislation.

**Status:** This revenue package became law after passing both houses with supermajorities and overriding a veto from Governor Rauner. [Read the Bill](#)

**AFC ADVOCACY**

In 2017, AFC had two amazing Springfield Advocacy Days, with 52 advocated participating in April, and 97 in May. That is 149 members of the community travelling to Springfield from throughout Illinois for a day of engaging in direct advocacy of their elected officials.