

2021 ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Overview

AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC) is proud to prioritize the below legislation in partnership with and through the leadership of partner organizations throughout the state. For more specific details on the legislation highlighted below, review our complete 2021 Illinois State Legislative Agenda, [here](#).

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SB 266 / HB 3071: ILLINOIS HEALTHY YOUTH ACT



The goal of this bill is to have inclusive and affirming sexual health education that provides youth the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about their health by removing outdated language and requiring instruction be medically accurate and accessible for all students.

HB 1745 / SB 275: REDUCE AND LIMIT OUT-OF-POCKET PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Patients are often forced into medical debt, or worse, forced to forgo necessary medication simply because they cannot afford their extremely high out-of-pocket prescription drug prices. The goal of this bill is to address these costs by offering more affordable prescription drug coverage choices for Illinoisans.



SB 655: DECRIMINILIZE HIV IN ILLINOIS



Illinois' "Criminal Transmission of HIV" law criminalizes and highly stigmatizes people living with HIV, running contrary to the priorities of the statewide [Getting to Zero Illinois \(GTZ-IL\) plan](#) to end HIV by 2030. The goal of this bill is to repeal Illinois' outdated, discriminatory and unscientific HIV Criminalization law.

HB 3498: PRESERVE ACCESS AND AFFORDABILITY OF TELEHEALTH

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Pritzker temporarily expanded telehealth services allowing all Illinoisans to continue receiving necessary medical, mental health, substance use care and case management services. The goal of this legislation is to make these temporary changes permanent.



SB 2133: SEXUAL ORIENTATION/GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) DATA COLLECTION



The goal of this legislation is to address the mental and physical health disparities affecting LGBT Illinoisans by requiring the Illinois Department of Public Health to begin securely and consistently collecting sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) information during all COVID-19-related testing, contact tracing, hospital admissions and vaccinations.

HB 3493: HEALTHY ILLINOIS FOR ALL

Undocumented immigrants face incredible barriers to accessing health care, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. This legislation would extend Medicaid eligibility to all low-income Illinois residents aged 19 through 64, with household incomes of up to 138% FPL (\$17,236/year for an individual), regardless of their immigration status.



IL STATE BUDGET: AFRICAN AMERICAN HIV/AIDS RESPONSE FUND, AND HIV & OTHER STIs FUNDING



AFC will advocate for the protection and increase of state funding for HIV treatment and prevention services, including the African American HIV/AIDS Response Fund.

This investment will lead to the continued reduction of new HIV cases, especially when prioritized in Black and Latinx communities. In addition, AFC will advocate for new STI funding to be prioritized in the state budget, largely to address the growing rates of STI diagnoses (i.e. Chlamydia; Gonorrhea; and Syphilis).

HB 158 / HB 159: IL LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS' HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE OMNIBUS BILL

This legislation contains innovative provisions that will eliminate biases and injustices in Illinois' health care system such as creating the Community Health Worker Certification and Reimbursement Act, the Anti-Racism Commission Act, and requiring implicit bias training for medical professionals – work necessary to achieving greater racial health equity in Illinois.



IL HEALTH CARE AFFORDABILITY STUDY



The IL Health Care Affordability Study report is due to Gov. Pritzker and the IL General Assembly by Feb. 28, 2021, outlining the design, costs, benefits and implementation of a State Option for health insurance coverage focusing on expanding access to coverage for underinsured and uninsured Illinoisans. AFC is committed to advocating for policies within this report.

HB 2877 / SB 668: COVID-19 EMERGENCY EVICTION AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

Housing is health care, and with so many people having lost their income due to COVID-19, state legislators must enact necessary protections, such as foreclosure moratoriums and emergency rental assistance, to ensure Illinoisans can stabilize their housing situation for the duration of the pandemic and beyond.



HB 711 / SB 177: PRIOR AUTHORIZATION REFORM ACT



The goal of this bill is to address concerns about the delays caused by the prior authorization processes used by state-regulated health insurance plans. This legislation will establish consistent timelines so patients don't have to worry about decision-making delays and ensure prior authorization requirements are based on medical evidence and administered by qualified individuals.