

Health Reform Initiative: 2016 Policy Agenda

West Town Office: 1256 W. Chicago Ave. | Chicago, IL 60642 | 312-491-8161 | 312-491-8171 FAX | www.everthriveil.org

Mission: The Health Reform Initiative is devoted to the promotion and implementation of positive health care reform policies and the strengthening of Medicaid and other safety net systems in Illinois. We provide education for stakeholders and consumers on the impact of health care laws, while advocating for policies that bring us closer to providing every individual with high quality, comprehensive, accessible, and affordable health care.

Priority 1: Medicaid - Advocate for a transparent, accessible, and robust Medicaid program

- Advocate for an effective and consumer focused system for managing enrollment and redetermination/renewal in Medicaid and other public benefits.
- Advocate for a Medicaid Managed Care System that meets the needs of consumers by ensuring a comprehensive set of benefits and continuity of care.
- Engage in state conversations focused on positive health and/or human services system transformation.
- Protect access for low-income children and families to AllKids and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Advocate for a comprehensive family planning safety-net that meets the reproductive health needs of uninsured and underinsured women.
- Champion the development of consumer-focused tools and resources that engage consumers and facilitate informed decision-making in Medicaid Managed Care.
- Defend against efforts to weaken or undermine Medicaid or other public benefits.
- Advocate for policies that make quality, affordable health care coverage accessible to all people in Illinois.

Priority 2: Affordable Care Act (ACA) Implementation - Facilitate consumer friendly implementation of the ACA

- Advocate for a transparent and accessible health insurance marketplace.
- Uphold a robust enrollment assistance program.
- Monitor the scope of essential health benefits in ACA plans and advocate for strengthening the state Benchmark plan.
- Identify and eliminate roadblocks that prevent consumers from enrolling in health insurance coverage.
- Advocate for affordable and comprehensive health coverage that promotes meaningful access to care.

Priority 3: Network Transparency & Adequacy – Ensure network transparency & adequacy among both Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and Medicaid Managed Care Health Plans

- Advocate for transparent, accurate, and up-to-date information on networks, coverage, and cost-sharing in Medicaid Managed Care Plans and QHPs sold on the health insurance marketplace. This

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includes advocacy for the passage of HB6213 - Empowering Meaningful Patient Choice in Medicaid Managed Care & HB5559 - Medicaid Access Monitoring Act.

- Support efforts to strengthen network adequacy requirements to ensure that consumers have meaningful access to care.
- Oppose efforts to create overly narrow health plan networks which appear affordable but may result in unexpected and/or prohibitive costs of care.

Priority 4: Reproductive Justice - Ensure access to comprehensive family planning services regardless of insurance status

- Ensure health plans have robust coverage for reproductive services and mitigate barriers to care through advocacy on the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act, HB5576.
- Support efforts to rebuild and strengthen the family planning safety net in Illinois, especially the adoption of an amendment to the state's Medicaid plan to include family planning services for women and men/
- Ensure access to comprehensive, affordable and accessible abortion services.

Priority 5: Preventative & Primary Care - Advocate for the protection and increased investment in preventative and primary care

- Advocate for unrestricted access and coverage of preventative health services without cost-sharing.
- Ensure that children enrolled in AllKids have access to the full range of free prevention, treatment, and transportation services guaranteed by the federal Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program.
- Advocate for coordinated, patient-centered care models including Health Homes and Patient Centered Medical Homes.