

Illinois Veto Session Edition:
Policy updates from the 2014 Veto Session
(Nov. 19 – Nov. 20 and Dec. 2 – Dec. 4)

State Health Insurance Marketplace Bill: Although the bill that would set up a State-Based Health Insurance Marketplace, SB636 HA5, was voted out of the House Human Services Committee during the fall Veto session, it was not called for a vote in the full House chamber. This was the last opportunity for Illinois to pass legislation to access the federal funding available for states to set up a State-Based Health Insurance Marketplace. Going forward, Illinois will continue to participate in the Federal-State Partnership Health Insurance Marketplace that is currently in place, with an Open Enrollment period occurring each year. The 2015 Open Enrollment Period began on November 15, 2014 and will go through February 15, 2015. To find out more information about health insurance options for Illinois residents during the Open Enrollment Period, visit HealthCare.gov.

Minimum Wage Bill: The Illinois Senate passed a minimum wage increase in a bill that would raise the state minimum wage to \$11/hr by 2019, preempting Chicago's minimum wage if it goes higher than \$13/hr, and providing small business tax credits. Unfortunately, this bill did not come up for a vote in the House before it adjourned on December 3rd. It is worth noting that a majority of voters in Illinois voted “yes” on a state-wide ballot referendum that asked if the state minimum wage should be increased to \$10/hr by January 2015. The Raise Illinois Coalition, which EverThrive Illinois participates in, will continue the fight to raise the wage for the hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans who work full-time, yet still live in poverty. To find out more about the advocacy effort to raise the minimum wage in Illinois, visit <http://www.raiseillinois.com/about.html>

Crib Bumper Pad Ban Bill: The fall Veto Session ended without the Illinois Senate having the opportunity to vote on a bill that would ban the sale of crib bumper pads in Illinois. HB5348 passed the Illinois House in the spring session but had yet to be called for a floor vote in the Illinois Senate. Crib bumper pads pose suffocation, strangulation, choking and fall hazards, which is why EverThrive Illinois partnered with Kids In Danger, Illinois Action for Children, and other advocates to pass legislation that would ban the sale of crib bumper pads in Illinois. We will continue to work in coalition with the aforementioned organizations and other interested stakeholders to ensure the health and safety of all Illinois children.