

Speak Up for Public Policy & Systems Advocacy



Agenda

- Policymakers and Budget Process
- Top Policy Issues we expect for the 2020 Legislative Session
- Why and how it is important to create relationships with legislators
- Key points in the spring session to speak up
- Get involved!



What is Public Policy?

Public policy is how a government meets the needs of its people

- Actions
- Funding priorities
- Laws
- Regulations

Sense of the Room

- I have no experience with policy and systems advocacy
- I have a little experience with policy and systems advocacy
- I have a bunch of experience with policy and systems advocacy



Who Creates Public Policy?

Elected officials create public policy but Advocates can help!

Elected officials are also called

- Policy makers
- Legislators
- Decision makers



Illinois Elected Officials



JB Pritzker
Governor



Juliana Stratton
Lt Governor



Illinois State Legislature

Illinois Representatives and Senators

118 **House** Members

➤ New: 35

59 **Senators**

➤ New: 14



**BIG
CHANGES!**

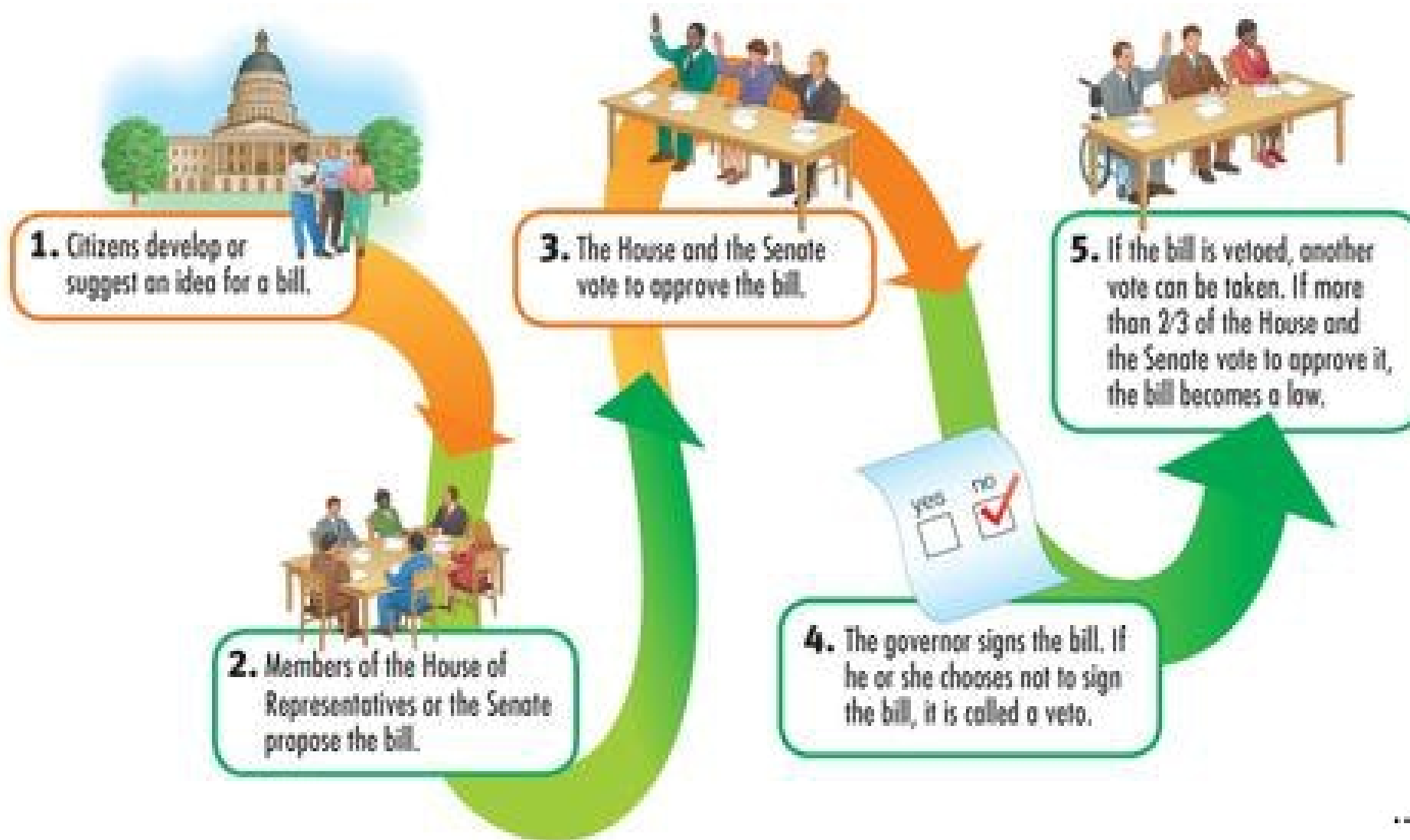


2020 Election

We Must Advocate To:

- Change how Illinois spends its money
- Increase funding for what you care about
- Make sure you get the supports to do the things YOU want to do.

How a Bill Becomes a Law



...

Specifically:

1) *Identify Ideas??

2) Write the Bill (LRB).

3) *Find Sponsor(s).

4) File the Bill. (House and/or Senate)

5) Bill is introduced.

6) *Submit Witness Slip. Give Testimony. Observe.

7) Vote on Bill.

8) Bill moves to Other Chamber.

9) *Submit Witness Slip. Give Testimony. Observe.

10) Other Chamber Votes on Bill.

11) Bill Sent to Governor.

12) Governor

Budget Is Slightly Different

- In **September** of the year preceding the start of the new fiscal year, the [governor](#) sends budget instructions to state agencies.
- In **October** and **November**, agencies submit their budget requests to the governor.
- Budget hearings with the public are held from **February** through **May**.
- On the third Wednesday in **February**, the governor submits his or her proposed budget to the [Illinois General Assembly](#).
- The General Assembly passes a budget in **May**.

FY21 Governor's Proposed Budget

Investment in Community-Based Services

- \$96 million for front line staff serving persons with developmental disabilities
- \$46 million to support wage increase for individual providers serving customers of the Home Services Program

Continued progress on [Olmstead Consent Decrees](#)

- \$28.5 million for Ligas annualizations and new placements

Funding for an additional 100 IDHS caseworkers to ensure residents who need services can get them in a timely manner.

Witness Slips – How to Find Them

- Go to www.ilga.gov and searching for the Senate or House bill.
- Once you have determined which committee will consider the legislation, go back to the homepage of www.ilga.gov and click “GA Dashboard” under “Reports and Inquiry” in the middle column. Or <http://my.ilga.gov/>.
- How to guide: <http://www.senatorsteans.com/constituent-resources/how-to-submit-a-witness-slip>

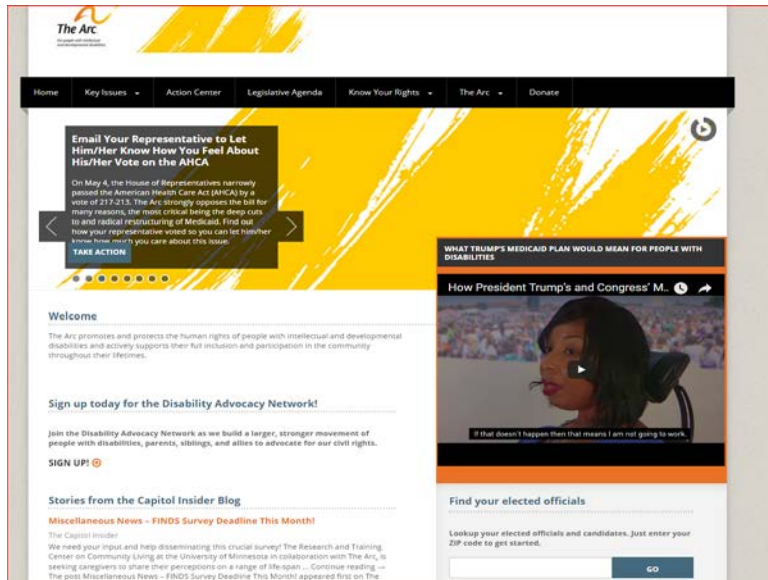
Witness Slips – How to Fill Them Out

- To submit your own witness slip, go to <http://my.ilga.gov/> and click “Create Witness Slip” in the right column of the legislation that interests you.
- Enter your information, the names of the groups or firms you represent and your position (support or oppose) on the legislation.
- “What type of testimony you’d like to submit.”
 - “Record of Appearance Only”
 - “Oral”
 - “Written statement filed” – It is your responsibility to get a copy of your written statement to the chairman or chairwoman of that committee.
- Once you have completed the required information, click “Create (Slip)” at the bottom of the page.

How to Track a Bill

- The first step is to identify which legislation you are interested in supporting or opposing, then finding out which committee will hear it. You can do that by going to www.ilga.gov and searching for the Senate or House bill.
- Left hand side – search the bill number
- Top bar – search under House and Senate for committee schedules and if you want to listen to a committee hearing.

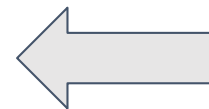
How do I find my legislators?



Go to

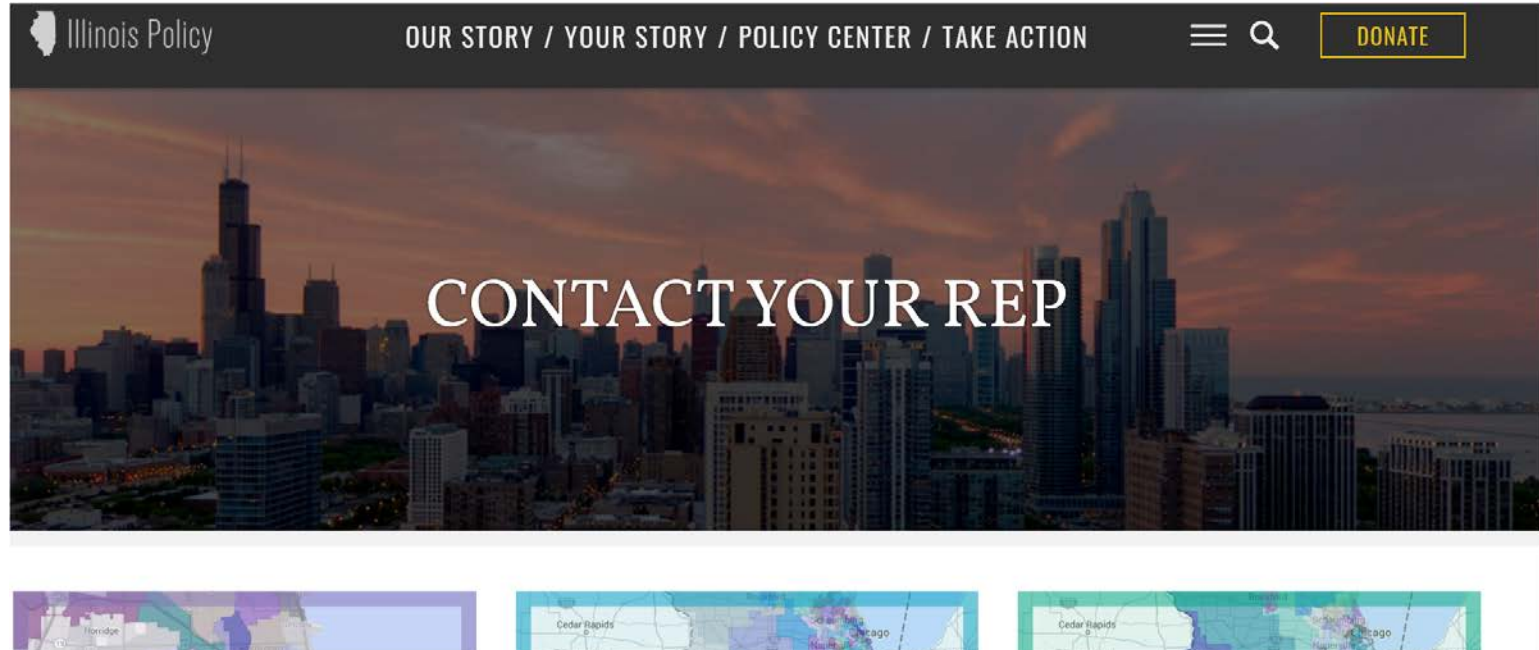
<http://cqrcengage.com/thearc/?6>

Plug in your zipcode and a list of your Federal, State, and Local representatives will come up.



Finding Your Legislators

- You can also look at: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/>



Top 2020 Public Policy Issues

- Investment in Community Living (SB3337, SB3269, HB4872)
 - Address the staff crisis by getting wages above minimum wage
 - Increase rates for more individualized services and supports in the community
- Employment (SB3610, HB 5316, SB2957, SB3340)
 - Helping people in CILA's keep their paychecks
 - Personal Needs Allowance
 - State Use program – ensuring the state pays minimum wage
 - Subminimum wage

Top 2020 Public Policy Issues

- Education - Seclusion and Restraint (HB4233, HB5326)
 - Supported Decision making – Guardianship and Advocacy(HB4842)
 - Bridging the gap between transition and adult services
 - Assistive Technology – Remote Supports (HB 4884/SB 3638/HR 745)
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- ❖ Other regulatory/administrative changes (Rates committee)
 - ❖ Implementation of previous year's bills (criminal justice task force, customized employment pilot, funding diversion homes)

HCBS Settings Rule – Why it matters

Let's Review:

- Limited money for community services
- More than 7000 people waiting for services

HCBS settings rule can help ensure HCBS \$\$ is spent services that help people live, work, learn, Play, love in the community living

HCBS Settings Rule

- The Rule defines the qualities of a home and community-based setting.
- The Rule defines settings that are NOT community-based.
- The Rule defines integration in the greater community AND supports full access of people receiving Medicaid HCBS to the greater community.
- The setting is selected from options that include non-disability specific settings.
- There are specific criteria for 24 hour CILA, Day Programs and Workshops, though the general rule covers ALL HCBS \$.

HCBS Settings Rule – Comment!

March 5 - Comments are DUE!

Submitted online HFS.SWTransitionPlan@illinois.gov

or

Written comments may be mailed to:

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Attn: Waiver Management

201 South Grand Ave East, FL 2 Springfield, IL 62763

HFS Info Webinars

Feb 28, 10 am - [Register](#) (delete my info and put your own)

March 4, 1:30 pm - [Register](#) (delete my info and put your own)

Agenda for meeting:

- Recap of Federal Person Centered Planning and Settings Rule Requirements – the foundation for why a Statewide Transition Plan is being done
- Recap of Key Points in SMD-#19-001, Federal Policy Issuance in March 2019 re: HCBS Regulations – Heightened Scrutiny Requirements
- Walk-Through of New Material/Updates to the Statewide Transition Plan from the one last posted on February 1, 2017.

There will not be a Question and Answer session as part of the webinar. Questions/comments may also be submitted to HFS.SWTransitionPlan@illinois.gov by midnight, Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 11:59 pm.

Listen to Arc/ICDD Webinar

Webinar PowerPoint

Comment Guide

Listen to the webinar here:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/1900532642050966018>



Say It Again Sam

Comments can range from very personal and tell stories to factual and focused on public policy.

Themes can include:

- Nothing about us without us
- Strong assessments for everyone
- Shine some sunshine on the process
- Talk to us often
- Put IL's money where its mouth is!

Federal Public Policy Issues

- Budget
- Income and asset limits - SGA
- Money Follows the Person
- HCBS Settings Infrastructure Incentive Act
- Employment – subminimum wage
- Food stamps and other benefits

Join Us In Advocacy!

- The Arc of Illinois – action alerts
 - Stories or to Lead - Connect with meg@thearcofil.org
- Wages - They Deserve More – [www.theydeservemore](http://www.theydeservemore.org)
 - Looking for people willing to share stories
- Going Home Coalition – www.goinghomecoalition.org
 - Community First Campaign - Nafia@thearcofil.org
 - April Rally – Date to follow

Become a Member! Join The Arc Family

3 mon free

- **Make your voice heard** - Advocate with us for policy change, funding and legislation.
- **Be a part of community** - Get support and learn from other families.
- **Access resources when you need them** - Gain valuable online and program resources.
- **Learn and network** - Receive discounts on training and conferences.
- **Connect to The Arc of the United States** - Join a national network, and get news and resources from across the US.
- **Make a difference** - Be a part of protecting rights and advocate for improved services.

Prepare to Talk to Legislators:

1. Tell them who you are, that you are constituent
2. What your issue of concern is and how they might help
3. Make the ask – ask them to support your issue, work with you or keep talking to you about it





Your Story

Step 1

- Your name, something about you and/or your family member

Step 2

- Your concerns
- Your story
- Statistics



Your Story

Step 3

- What you want changed
- How you want it changed
- Ask to them to support you



Step 1: Your Name

“My name is Steve and I live in Maple Park in your district. I really like sports and I follow all the Illinois sport teams. I go to Sunny Side Agency and do contract work. I don’t make much money doing contract work.”



Step 2: Your Main Concern

“I would like to get a job in the community working at a sporting goods store. My agency says that there isn't funding to help me find a job at a sporting goods store or to help me once I get a job. I want to make money so that I can live a real life. I want to be able to go see my favorite Illinois sports teams in person.”



Step 3: What You Want

“Please vote yes on funding agencies like Sunny Side so that they can help me and others like me who want to work in the community and make money. You can come visit me at Sunny Side and meet my friends who also want to work in the community.


Thanks so much for listening to me and helping me.”



Let's Practice: Speak Up and Speak Out

Take 5-7 minutes to complete the hook, line, and sinker worksheet

Tips to Remember



*My Voice,
My Choice*

1. Always be polite.
2. Say thank you.
3. Be prepared and keep your story straight.
4. Never make up an answer.
5. Expect to have 10-15 minutes only.
6. Be patient.
7. Ask how you can help them.



Call to Action: What will YOU do within 24 hours?

- For Yourself?
- For Your Family?
- For Your Community?

Thank You & Questions

- Meg Cooch
- 773-558-5136
- meg@thearcofil.org

- Materials to bring
- Arc one pager and membership brochure
- Comments info from ICDD