

# SUPPORT HB 4966: THE SECURE ACT

Safeguards to Ensure Continuity and Uphold Rights and Equity (SECURE) Act

SPONSOR: Cassidy

HB 4966 closes gaps in Illinois' child welfare system to strengthen non-discrimination protections for youth in DCFS care & ensure access to lawful healthcare out-of-state

## Why This Bill Matters:

- ✓ Youth in foster care experience higher rates of trauma and unmet health needs.
- ✓ DCFS must protect youth in care, even when placed out-of-state.
- ✓ Current law lacks clear, enforceable standards for caregiver conduct, non-discrimination protections for youth, and access to lawful health care access across state lines.

## What This Bill Does:



### Lawful Healthcare Access Out-of-State

- ✓ Pre-placement Planning for Out-of-State Care
- ✓ Regular, Direct Contact With IL-Based Worker
- ✓ Proactive Mitigation of Risk of Adverse Action
- ✓ Appointment of Counsel For Out-of-State Youth at Risk of Adverse Action
- ✓ Court Oversight



### Clear & Enforceable Standards to Protect Youth's Rights

- ✓ DCFS Mandate to Ensure Supportive, Non-Discriminatory Care
- ✓ Protects Against Retaliation & Harassment
- ✓ Clear Caregiver Duties
- ✓ Private Right of Action for Violations



### Transparency & Accountability

- ✓ Annual Public Data Reporting
- ✓ Auditor General Implementation Evaluations

## What This Bill Does NOT Do:

- ✓ Regulate personal beliefs or speech.
- ✓ Violate other state's laws.
- ✓ Mandate treatment beyond Illinois standards

**Ensure Safe, Lawful Care for Youth in DCFS Custody**

For more info contact: Nora Collins-Mandeville, Director, Youth & Family Policy Project  
(312.970.0389, [ncollinsmandeville@aclu-il.org](mailto:ncollinsmandeville@aclu-il.org))

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