

SUPPORT HB 4966: SECURE ACT

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

SPONSORS: Sen. Villanueva (Rep. Cassidy)
Sen Co-Sponsors: Collins, Ventura

HB 4966 closes gaps in Illinois' child welfare laws 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 Certain Out-of-State Youth



Clear & Enforceable Standards to Protect Youth's Rights

- ✓ DCFS Mandate to Ensure Supportive, Non-Discriminatory Care
- ✓ Protects Against Retaliation & Harassment
- ✓ Clear Caregiver Duties
- ✓ Juvenile Court Oversight for Violations



Transparency & Accountability

- ✓ Annual Public Data Reporting
- ✓ Auditor General Implementation Evaluations
- ✓ DCFS Inspector General Oversight

What This Bill Does NOT Do:

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

Supporters

ACLU of Illinois
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Therapy Collective

Foster Care Alumni of America – IL Chapter
National Association of Social Workers – IL
National Association of Counsel for Children

Ensure Safe, Lawful Care for Youth in DCFS Custody

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ACLU Illinois