

A LOOK AT 10 YEARS OF REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND FREEDOM IN THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND INFORMATION

HB 2675 (2013) ILLINOIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

In partnership with AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Planned Parenthood of Illinois

House Bill 2675 modernizes Illinois sexual health education law to ensure that students in grades six through twelve receive information that will help them lead healthy lives and make responsible decisions – including age-appropriate information about abstinence, contraception, healthy relationships and boundary setting. Young people in Illinois deserve complete, comprehensive age-appropriate and medically accurate information to make responsible decisions about their sexual health.

SB 1564 (2015) HEALTH CARE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE ACT

In partnership with Personal PAC and Planned Parenthood of Illinois

Before the passage of SB 1564, doctors, hospitals and other health care providers could refuse to give patients care and even information that conflicts with the provider's religious beliefs. Health care providers were also not required to consider a patient's interests or whether their actions will harm the patient. The ACLU of Illinois believes everyone in Illinois has the right to receive health care and information that is not restricted by the religious beliefs of others. SB 1564 ensures that if a health care provider refuses to provide care because of a conscience-based objection (i.e. religious beliefs) that they are still required to provide patients the information they need in order to make an informed medical decision and to access the care they need. Medical records must also be provided to the patient or to the provider from whom the patient is seeking treatment in a timely manner.

SB 25 (2019) REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT

In partnership with Personal PAC and Planned Parenthood of Illinois

The Reproductive Health Act (RHA) protects reproductive freedom and autonomy in Illinois law by establishing the fundamental right to make individual decisions about reproductive health care, including contraception, abortion care, and maternity care. The RHA removes the outdated, dangerous Illinois Abortion law of 1975 and the long-blocked Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act and requires abortion care be treated like all health care, with regulations that reflect current medical standards. The RHA also requires private health insurance plans to cover abortion care as they do with any other pregnancy related care including charging co-pays or other cost sharing measures.

SB 818 (2021) KEEPING YOUTH SAFE AND HEALTHY ACT

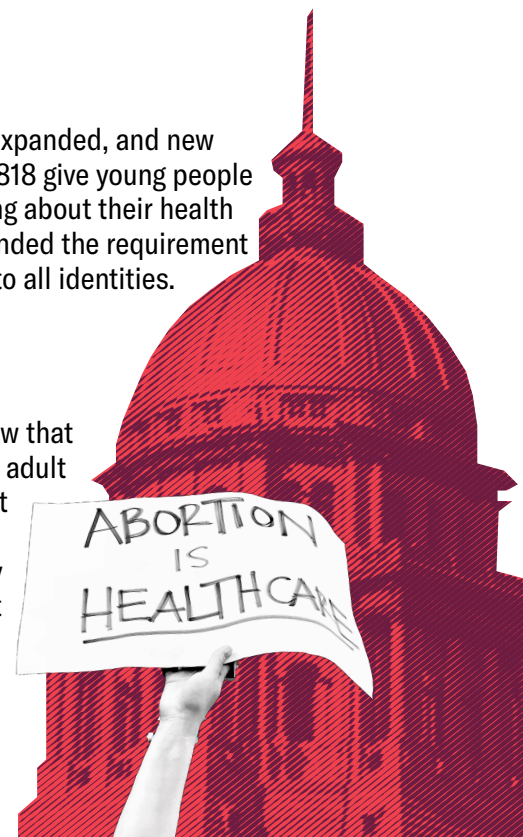
In partnership with AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Equality Illinois and Planned Parenthood of Illinois

In 2021 the sexual health education standards in grades 6-12 were further updated and expanded, and new standards for K-5 were created for personal health and safety. The new standards in SB 818 give young people the information and tools they need to support responsible and informed decision making about their health and well-being throughout their lives. The Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act also expanded the requirement that instruction be, culturally appropriate, trauma informed, and inclusive and affirming to all identities.

HB 370 (2021) YOUTH HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

Supported by a broad coalition of Illinois pro-choice advocates, led by ACLU of Illinois and Personal PAC

The Youth Health and Safety Act repealed the Parental Notice of Abortion Act (PNA), a law that was in effect since 2013. During that time more than 600 minors who could not notify an adult family member on their choice to have an abortion were forced to go to court and request a waiver from a judge to have the procedure. By repealing PNA, HB 370 removed the hurdles that were placed only for minors choosing abortion. The Youth Health and Safety Act also created a bipartisan working group to identify resources and needs for pregnant and parenting youth, and youth who could become pregnant in the areas of education, housing, employment, childcare, food access and the prevention of trafficking.



ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

HB 5576 (2016) ILLINOIS CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE ACT

In partnership with EverThrive Illinois and Planned Parenthood of Illinois

The Contraceptive Coverage Act (CCA) improves access to the full range of contraceptive options for all people with insurance. The CCA does this by guaranteeing coverage for all FDA approved contraceptive options, including voluntary sterilization, prevents insurance companies from creating costly barriers to this basic healthcare need, and requires insurance companies to cover birth control prescriptions for up to 12 months at one time. The CCA also applies other measures to improve implementation by putting federal regulations into state law. The passage of the CCA increases the potential to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and improve birth outcomes by guaranteeing reliable, affordable access to contraception.

HB 40 (2017) EQUALITY IN ABORTION CARE COVERAGE

In partnership with Personal PAC and Planned Parenthood of Illinois

In 2017, Illinois passed HB 40 to ensure that our state laws allow full access to reproductive healthcare without discrimination and a dangerous trigger law. HB 40 requires Medicaid and state employee health insurance to cover access to abortion care. Previously, these insurance providers denied coverage of abortion care discriminating against people based on their income and type of employment. All women should be able to get the care they need, regardless of the source of their insurance. In addition, HB 40 removed a trigger law in Illinois abortion law that would force Illinois to criminalize abortion if the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. By removing this trigger law, abortion will remain legal in Illinois even if the US Supreme Court rolls back Roe v Wade.

PREGNANCY AND PARENTING

HB 1958 (2012) PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND RIGHTS OF INCARCERATED PREGNANT PEOPLE

In partnership with Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM)

In 2000, Illinois became the first state to ban shackling for incarcerated pregnant people. Unfortunately, there had been many instances since where incarcerated pregnant people were still shackled during labor. In 2012, the ACLU collaborated with Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM) in a coalition effort to pass HB 1958, which clarifies language and add new protections to ensure incarcerated pregnant people in Cook County are not shackled throughout pregnancy, labor, and the postpartum period. HB 1958 clarifies and strengthens the law to protect the life and health of pregnant people and their infants. In addition, HB 1958 also adds definitions for “restraints” and “labor” so correctional officers have clear guidance, requires correctional officers to wait outside the delivery room during labor and birth, and includes a reporting requirement to promote accountability and transparency. These measures help to ensure the life, health, and human rights of pregnant people and their infants while incarcerated.

HB 8 (2014) WORK PLACE FAIRNESS FOR PREGNANT EMPLOYEES

In partnership with the Shriver Center on Poverty Law and Women Employed

In partnership with the Shriver Center on Poverty Law and Women Employed, the ACLU of Illinois passed HB 8 to provide state protections to ensure workplace fairness for pregnant employees. Modeled after the Americans with Disabilities Act, HB 8 requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for conditions related to pregnancy and childbirth, unless the employer can demonstrate that the accommodation would impose an undue hardship on the ordinary operation of the employer’s business. HB 8 does not require employers to create new jobs or fire, transfer an employee with more seniority, or promote an unqualified employee. HB 8 promotes economic security for pregnant people and their families so no person has to choose between pregnancy and their job.

SB 3503 (2018) LACTATION ROOMS IN COURTS

SB 3503 requires courthouses to make a lactation room or area available for pumping for parents who are breastfeeding. The lactation room or area must be equipped with a chair, a table, and an outlet.

The private room or area cannot be a restroom or toilet stall to reduce risk of breast milk contamination. Nursing parents should not be blocked from serving as attorneys, jurors, and witnesses in Illinois citizens’ civil and criminal proceeding and forced to choose between civic engagement and breastfeeding their baby. SB 3503 promotes everyone's right to access the courts.

