

2019 YEAR END REPORT

ACLU of Illinois

**PROTECT
ILLINOIS
WOMEN
NOW.**

ACLU
Illinois

**ROE IS
AT RISK.**

PASS THE RHA

#PassTheRHA

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

The ACLU of Illinois worked to protect and expand your right and civil liberties throughout the state in the courts, in the legislature, and on the streets. With your support we...

YOU MARCHED

3,000+
attended the RHA Rally

10,000+
attended the Stop Separating
Families Rally in Chicago

CHANGE WAS MADE IN SPRINGFIELD

11
legislative initiatives this session

5
passed legislative bills:

- SB 25: Reproductive Health Act
- SB 1786: License to Work Act
- SB 2090: Increasing Voter Access and Education
- HB 1613: Permanent Traffic and Pedestrian Data Collection by Law Enforcement
- HB 2134: Reasonable Expectation of Privacy

YOU SUPPORTED US

70,000+
members and supporters
throughout the state

YOU JOINED US

3,000+
attended ACLU events
throughout the year

YOU MADE YOUR VOICE HEARD

1,000+
calls made to legislators

7,000+
emails sent to legislators

WE SUED

5
new cases filed

30+
cases in our legal docket

2
new court enforced agreements
to reform systems

WE GREW

9
new staff members
joined our team

44
staff members working to
protect your civil liberties

YOU LISTENED

3,000+
listens of our

10
new episodes of our podcast
TALKING LIBERTIES

7
court enforced agreements in
place to reform systems in
Illinois

For the ACLU of Illinois, 2019 was a time of big wins and transition. We won victories that will benefit all residents in Illinois for decades to come and laid the foundation for growth for the future.

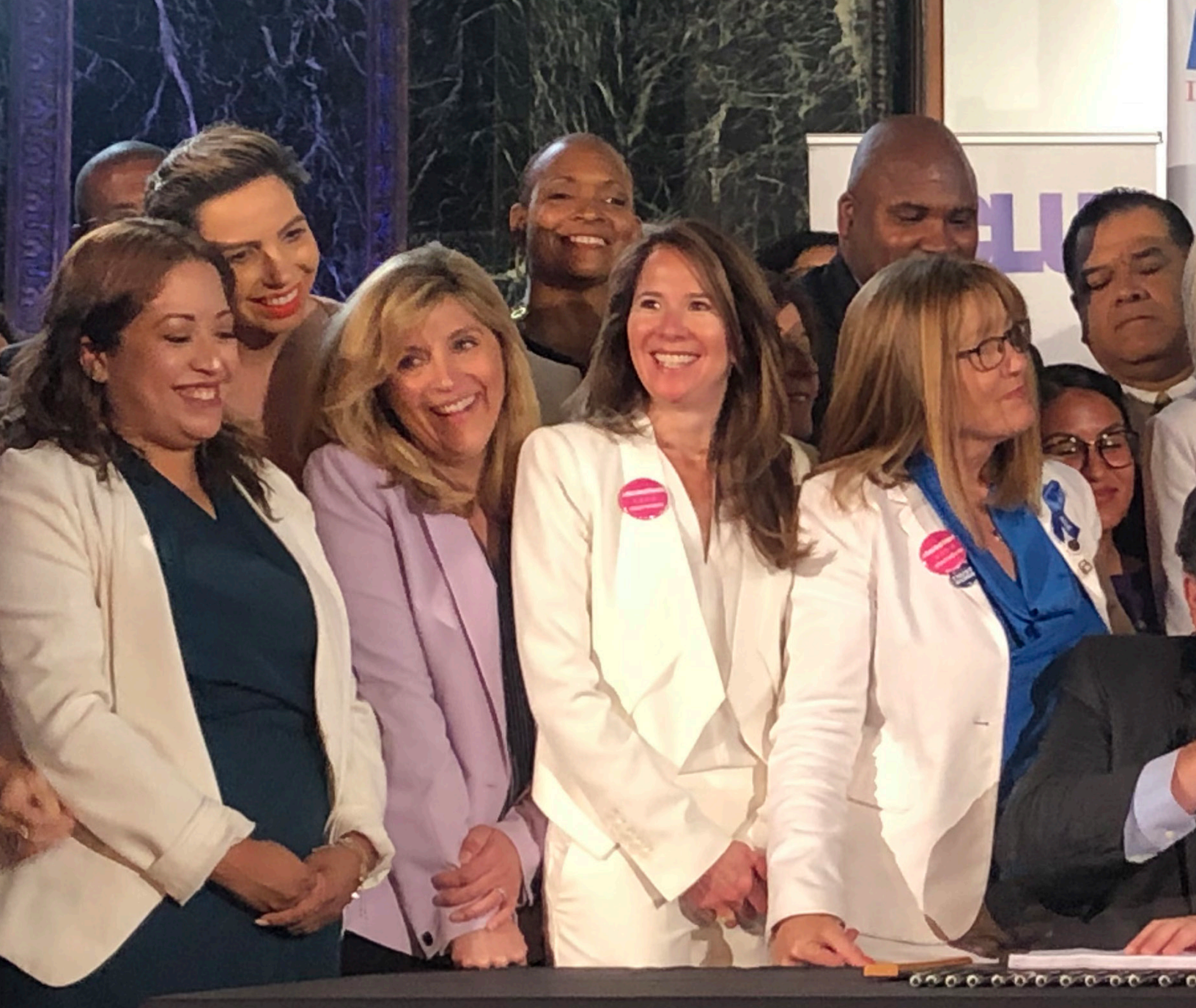
This is an exciting time for our organization. In 2020, the ACLU celebrates our 100th anniversary. This amazing milestone gives us the time to reflect back on the remarkable history of the organization and look forward to future progress.

The victories outlined in these pages are only possible because of our members and supporters from every corner of Illinois. We could not do this work without you. We will continue to fight to protect your rights today and for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support.



Colleen K. Connell
Executive Director, ACLU of Illinois



WE WON'T GO BACK

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW | SB 25

The ACLU of Illinois' 50-year commitment to protecting reproductive rights culminated in the passage of the Reproductive Health Act – one of the most protective reproductive health act in the country! ACLU of Illinois staff was in the lead on this effort: our lawyers drafted the language, our Advocacy staff led the lobbying strategies working side-by-side with our sponsors, and our Communications staff led the messaging campaign in support of the bill.

The Reproductive Health Act (RHA) recognizes that each person in Illinois has a fundamental right to make



Governor Pritzker signing the Reproductive Health Act into law.

decisions about reproductive health care, including contraception, abortion, and maternity care. The RHA writes into law current standards of medical practice for reproductive health care, requires private health insurance plans in Illinois to cover abortion like they do other pregnancy related care, and repeals outdated laws that were not being enforced because of court rulings - many from the work of the ACLU of Illinois.

This effort to pass the RHA involved ACLU members and partners across the state. Handmaids stood watch at the State Capitol as legislators debated this bill in committee hearings and in session. Thousands of you sent letters, made phone calls, and visited your legislators. More than 3,000 of you joined us for a rally in Chicago to urge the legislature to act on protecting reproductive rights.

As the clock approached midnight to end the Spring legislative session, the Senate voted to pass the RHA and send the bill to the Governor. The RHA was signed into law shortly after at a celebration hosted by the ACLU of Illinois.

Our work to protect reproductive freedom stands in stark contrast to the efforts in surrounding states to enact abortions bans aimed at getting the Supreme Court to chip away, or eliminate, the abortion protections under Roe. During the 2019 legislative season, nine states passed severe restrictions on reproductive health care, seven of which have been blocked by the courts thanks to the diligent nationwide work of the ACLU.

RELIGIOUS REFUSALS

Across the United States, one in six hospital beds operates under some form of religious restriction, limiting the services available to patients. In Illinois, this number is closer to one in three. The restrictions impact a patient's ability to access a full scope of reproductive health care, including contraception and abortion. The dominance of these religious restrictions has real and harmful consequences – even for non-religiously affiliated health care providers. The ACLU advocacy prioritizes putting patients first.

When Clinton County public health officials began to explore a new facility for their health clinic, a local

religiously affiliated hospital offered to lease them a facility. However, the religious hospital insisted that the County agree to operate the clinic under this local hospital's religious restrictions – even though the clinic would be operated with taxpayer funds.

The ACLU cautioned the County against making this deal, noting the impact that limiting contraceptive and other care would have on residents in the County. At present, the county has not moved forward.

Religious refusals remain a significant threat to reproductive health across the state and we continue to monitor these developments.

JUDICIAL BYPASS COORDINATION PROJECT

Six years. That is how long Illinois has been enforcing the dangerous law requiring involvement of an adult family member in a young woman's decision about an unplanned pregnancy.

And for those six years, the ACLU of Illinois has been operating a Judicial Bypass Hotline, providing legal assistance to hundreds of young women as they try to navigate the law and the process of getting a judicial bypass.

The law requires that if the pregnant minor can't notify a parent, grandparent, legal guardian, or step-parent who lives with them, the minor has to go to court and convince a judge that they are mature and well enough informed to make this decision for themselves.

Most young women voluntarily tell a parent or adult in their life about a pregnancy; when they do not, they have a very good reason for not doing so.

Jane Doe was a 17-year-old high school student who worked part time. When Jane discovered that she was pregnant she discussed the situation with several health care providers and a teacher, and ultimately decided she wanted to have an abortion. But since Jane's parents strongly opposed abortion, she was afraid that they would try to force her to continue the pregnancy, as they had done when Jane's older sister got pregnant. She also feared that if she went through with the abortion against their wishes, they would kick her out of their house. Jane therefore decided she would pursue a judicial bypass.

Nearly 450 young women have now been forced to go to court to control their own reproductive health care. The process is not easy. It requires a youth to find their way to the Judicial Bypass Project Hotline, to be connected and to communicate with a lawyer to arrange and prepare for a bypass hearing, and then travel to court where they have to share details of their life with a judge who will determine if they will be granted a waiver.

Of the many young women we have accompanied to court, only one has ever been denied a bypass waiver. This number tells us that these youth are mature enough and well-informed enough to make this decision without forcing them to undergo this process. And Illinois should trust them to make this decision.

In fact, under Illinois law young women can make every other decision about their health care during pregnancy without any forced parental involvement. Pregnant youth can consent to treatments like amniocentesis or a cesarean section without any input from a parent. It is only the decision to terminate a pregnancy that requires this forced parental notice. Abortion is health care and we should treat it that way.

We are working to repeal this dangerous law, but – until we do – the ACLU will continue to provide assistance in the judicial bypass process to these youth to help them make the best decisions for themselves about their reproductive health care.



PROTECT
ILLINOIS
WOMEN
NOW.

ACLU
Illinois

TRANSGENDER STUDENTS BELONG



SCHOOL DISTRICT 211

On the night of November 14th, the cafeteria at Fremd High School in Schaumburg was filled with hundreds of concerned residents. The audience was waiting for the District 211 Board of Education to vote on a new inclusive policy intended to assure transgender students have full and equal use of all facilities in the District's high schools, including restrooms and locker rooms.

Four years ago, the District made headlines across the county when the ACLU filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education challenging the District's decision to deny our client Student A's use of the school's girls' locker room to change her clothes for sports because she is transgender.

District 211 responded by installing curtains in its locker rooms and forcing transgender students to change behind them, away from their classmates.

In 2017, we sued the District on behalf of Nova Maday. The District refused to allow Nova to use the girls' locker room because she was transgender. Instead, Nova was forced to change in the nurse's office or a separate locker room. At one point her locker – containing her belongings – was mistakenly taken out onto the school's loading dock.

Nova just wanted to be treated like every other girl in the school and be allowed to change her clothes for P.E. in the locker room.

And that's the message she delivered the night of November 14th to the Board and the crowded room. During the public comment period, Nova said:

**“TOO MANY OF THOSE VOICES WILL
NEVER KNOW THE PAIN OF BEING
TREATED DIFFERENTLY BECAUSE OF
WHO YOU ARE, BECAUSE OF THE
PERSON YOU KNOW YOURSELF
TO BE.”**

At the end of the night, the Board voted 5-2 to approve a new policy that aims to ensure transgender students are treated equally at school.

Our work in the District continues as Nova Maday's lawsuit is still ongoing. We are hopeful that the new policy adopted by the Board will be implemented in a way that ensures all students, including transgender students, have full and equal use of the locker rooms and restrooms in District 211.

ILLINOIS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Our progress in Palatine's School District 211 builds on two recent rulings from the Illinois Human Rights Commission on behalf of our client in Lake Park's District 108 and our client in District 94 in North Riverside.

The Commission is the state agency that enforces the Illinois Human Rights Act, our state law that bars discrimination against people on the basis of race, age, disability, sexual orientation, and gender.

The Commission's recent decisions make clear that the Illinois Human Rights Act requires Illinois schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity. In other words, schools that restrict transgender students' use of restrooms and locker rooms, including requiring them to use separate changing stalls, are violating Illinois law.

The Commission's recent decisions send a strong message to districts across the state: it is illegal to discriminate against transgender students.



Photo: Huge+ Galdones Photography

JUDI BROWN

Judi Brown was fired because she is an African-American transgender woman.

After Judi started working at Circle K's store in Bolingbrook, her manager began asking invasive and offensive questions, including about Judi's reproductive anatomy. It got worse – Circle K allowed a coworker to call Judi a “man in a dress” and a “prostitute.” This same coworker called her the n-word.

When Judi reported this harassment, Circle K did nothing to stop it. Instead, Circle K retaliated against her. When Judi followed her employer's rules for requesting the day off to participate in Chicago's Pride Parade, she was fired.

We sued for Judi because under Illinois law, no one can be fired because they are transgender. What happened to Judi was wrong.

The United States Supreme Court is now considering whether federal civil rights protections against sex discrimination will continue to apply to people who are transgender. Regardless of what the Supreme Court decides, Illinois law is clear that discrimination against transgender people is unacceptable. We must continue fighting to ensure fairness for everyone in our state.

MONROE Given widespread discrimination against transgender people, as well as the poor state of health care across Illinois prisons, it is not surprising that transgender prisoners who have gender dysphoria are denied basic dignity and fundamental health care. Through our lawsuit, Monroe, we are fighting for sweeping reforms that will ensure transgender prisoners are able to get the medical care they need.

We filed the case after learning from multiple current and former transgender prisoners that the state prison system regularly provides dismal treatment for gender dysphoria, including often delaying or denying healthcare for no good reason. Transgender prisoners are regularly denied adequate hormone treatment and prison doctors refuse to even evaluate them for gender-affirming surgeries. Prison policies and practices make it

impossible to socially transition, part of the medical treatment for gender dysphoria. And, the Department of Corrections refuses to even consider surgical care – procedures that often are critical to treating someone with gender dysphoria. IDOC's refusal to provide adequate healthcare has caused many transgender prisoners to harm themselves, including through self-castration or attempted suicide.

Currently, the healthcare for prisoners who are transgender is decided not by doctors, but a committee of people in the IDOC administration – none of whom have sufficient expertise or experience in treating people with gender dysphoria.

We have asked a court to step in and order immediate changes to improve the lives of our clients.

REFORMING HEALTHCARE FOR **ALL PRISONERS**

LIPPERT When society makes a decision to incarcerate someone, we become responsible for that person – including providing adequate health care. In Illinois, we are failing to meet this responsibility for prisoners.

After years of litigation, this year the ACLU secured a consent decree in Lippert, our challenge to the quality of health care available in Illinois prisons. The decree sets forth a specific plan for reform with a monitor to oversee the process.

Over the course of the lawsuit, two independent medical experts issued scathing reports about the lack of adequate care. In 2014, the first expert reported dozens of system-wide problems, including lack of health care personnel and inadequate physician training. One doctor had removed a diabetic prisoner from insulin when his blood sugar levels appeared “normal.” The resulting damage ended with the amputation of the patient’s foot.

The second expert report in 2018 was even more disturbing. After reviewing a sample of recent deaths in the prison system, the expert found nearly half of those deaths to be preventable and more to be “possibly preventable.” The records for still others were so bad that no conclusion could be reached.


The agreement for reform in Lippert is intended to address these issues – putting in place strict requirements for professional credentials, streamlining the system for care, requiring electronic medical records and audits of mortalities, and allowing greater access to specialists for both chronic and urgent conditions, among many other changes.

This system has been truly abysmal. But we are in this fight for the long run to make sure conditions improve.



FIND OUT MORE: TALKING LIBERTIES PODCAST

INFORMING VOTERS



CHICAGO MAYORAL ELECTION

As 2019 began, the City of Chicago was preparing for an election to select a new Mayor. Chicago's Mayor holds significant sway in the City on a number of issues that are of concern to the ACLU – from policing and the use of surveillance technologies, to LGBTQ policies, reproductive rights, criminal justice issues – especially the imposition of fines and fees on residents – and how the City interacts with immigrants and newcomers.

Given this reality, the ACLU wanted to educate voters in the City of Chicago about the 15 candidates' positions on the civil liberties issues confronting the City.

In early January, the ACLU created a candidate questionnaire for the candidates with 14 questions on a range of critical issues.

The candidates who responded to the questionnaire were invited to attend a forum hosted by the ACLU. Six candidates attended, including the two that went on to the run-off election, and spent two hours answering questions on their positions to the packed auditorium.

We asked the candidates these important policy questions about our rights and civil liberties and shared this information to help voters make an informed decision when they headed to the polls.



INCREASING VOTER ACCESS AND EDUCATION LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW | SB 2090

In Illinois, those with a criminal record regain their right to vote in Illinois upon leaving the Department of Corrections (IDOC) or county jails. But many do not know that they have the right to vote. In any given year, there are approximately 30,000 people who return from incarceration, all of whom are citizens eligible to vote in Illinois upon release. Yet many of these citizens do not register to vote because they believe that their past criminal conviction disqualifies them.

Those not yet convicted of a crime but held in county jails have not yet lost their right to vote. However, without a formal process in place, voting in jail is nearly impossible

for pre-trial detainees. Before SB 2090, only 8 of Illinois' 102 counties ensured that the citizens detained in their jail pre-trial could vote during elections.

Because of these issues, the ACLU took on Senate Bill 2090 which requires the IDOC and county jails to provide eligible citizens released from their custody a voter registration application and information about their voting rights. Furthermore, this legislation requires county jails and election authorities to collaborate in creating a process that gives pre-trial detainees an opportunity to cast their ballots during elections.

Governor J.B. Pritzker signed this legislation into law, which will be in effect before the 2020 election. The ACLU is now working to make sure justice involved individuals know this information.

ENDING THE CRIMINALIZATION OF **POVERTY**

END MONEY BOND

Throughout Illinois, many people are held in jail awaiting trial simply because they are unable to afford the monetary bond for their release. Money bonds often means that wealth, not innocence, determines whether someone is free or whether they are locked up as their case proceeds. This results in our current system of treating people without the money for bond as if they are “guilty until proven innocent,” and those with resources as “innocent until proven guilty.” Worse yet, pretrial detention causes people to plead guilty to crimes even if they believe they are innocent, just to get out of jail.

In the Cook County jail system alone, two-thirds of those detained before conviction would be free if they were able to afford monetary bond. The use of money bonds increases racial disparities in the criminal justice system, as those detained pretrial are more likely to be convicted and receive longer sentences.

This year, a special Commission of the Illinois Supreme Court heard testimony in cities around the state about how to address problems of money bond. The ACLU actively participated in these sessions, trying to raise awareness on this issue, and encouraging the Commission to end money bond.



FIND OUT MORE: TALKING LIBERTIES PODCAST





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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR HELP

No one should be punished for asking for help, and yet panhandling ordinances across the state penalize and criminalize those who seek assistance.

OUR CONSTITUTION DOES NOT PERMIT A LOWER STANDARD OF FREE SPEECH SIMPLY BECAUSE SOMEONE IS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE.

Since a 2015 Supreme Court ruling, *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*, countless panhandling ordinances across the country have been repealed. The Court's ruling makes clear that ordinances which regulate speech because of its content – like panhandling ordinances – are unconstitutional.

Despite this, regulations on panhandling still exist in Illinois law, and as ordinances in communities throughout the state.

Starting last year, we wrote letters, as part of a campaign with Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, to communities across the state asking them to repeal their unconstitutional panhandling ordinances. To date, twelve of the eighteen communities that received a letter have repealed their ordinances.

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| ✓ AURORA | ✓ GLEN CARBON |
| ✓ CARBONDALE | ● JOLIET |
| ✓ CHAMPAIGN | ✓ MOLINE |
| ✓ CHICAGO | ● O'FALLON |
| ● CICERO | ✓ OAK PARK |
| ● DANVILLE | ✓ PEORIA |
| ✓ DECATUR | ● ROCKFORD |
| ● EAST ST. LOUIS | ✓ URBANA |
| ✓ ELGIN | ✓ WOODSTOCK |

In August, we also filed a lawsuit against Downers Grove, the Illinois State Police, and the DuPage County State's Attorney. Our clients, Michael Dumiak and Christopher Simmons, were harassed, ticketed, and prosecuted under a state law when they stood on a raised median strip on a busy road asking for donations

from people stopped at red lights in their vehicles. This same location was used by firefighters and other groups to raise money for charitable organizations without prosecution or being ticketed. After we filed the lawsuit, Downers Grove agreed to stop enforcing the state law and repealed its local panhandling ordinance.

Laws should not be used to further punish those experiencing poverty or homeless. And the ability to speak should not be limited simply because speech is used to ask for help. We will continue to fight for this basic principle.



FIND OUT MORE: TALKING LIBERTIES PODCAST

LICENSE TO WORK ACT PASSED LEGISLATION | SB 1786

During the fall Veto Session of the Illinois General Assembly, the ACLU worked to pass the License to Work Act. Senate Bill 1786 prohibits the government from suspending a person's driver's license for non-moving violations, including the failure to pay parking tickets.

Losing one's license can be cataclysmic, keeping people from getting to work or caring for their families. When someone cannot travel to work, it makes it impossible to pay off the fines that resulted in the license suspension to begin with. This process has trapped thousands in an endless cycle of debt, hurting individuals, families, businesses, and communities, while doing nothing to make our roads safer. And of course, we know that these policies disproportionately hurt Black and Latinx drivers who are more likely to be stopped by the police.

More than 50,000 licenses are suspended around the state each year only because drivers can't pay tickets, fees, or fines. This measure reinstates tens of thousands of licenses currently suspended for non-driving offenses.



Separating Families Rally in Chicago

IMMIGRANTS ARE WELCOME HERE

In 2017, Illinois enacted the TRUST Act to ensure that interactions between immigrants and local law enforcement do not lead to immigrant detention or deportation. This bill was a step supported by law enforcement and Illinois leaders to make our state welcoming to immigrants.

In November, we sued the Ogle and Stephenson County Sheriff's Offices for violating the TRUST Act by holding non-citizens in jail for no reason but to turn them over to ICE. This is exactly what the law was meant to prevent.

We filed these lawsuits on behalf of three clients, Pedro Tlapa Castillo (Stephenson), Marcio Hernandez Rodriguez and Artemio Castillo Arteaga (Ogle). All three of our clients were stopped and arrested for minor traffic violations. All three quickly posted a cash bond, which should have led to their immediate release. Instead, officers in each of the Sheriff's offices held them until ICE officials picked them up.

These violations are not just happening in these two counties. We have heard reports of law enforcement violating the TRUST Act in communities across the state. Law enforcement should not be breaking state law and violating the TRUST Act. We will continue to take action against other law enforcement agencies in violation.



FIND OUT MORE: TALKING LIBERTIES PODCAST

“LET THE WORK BEGIN.”

COMMUNITIES UNITED

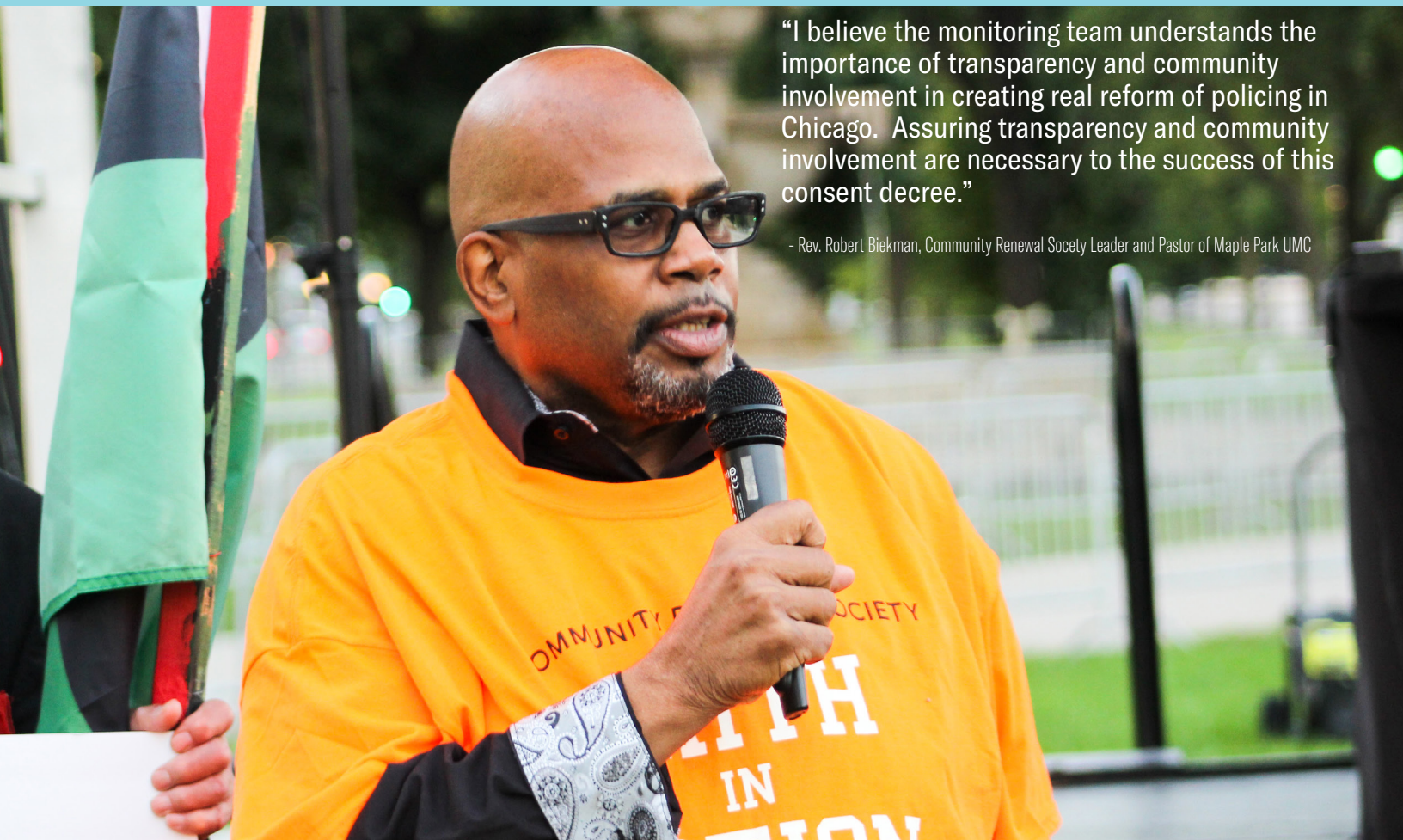
With these words, Judge Robert Dow approved a consent decree between the City of Chicago and the Illinois Attorney General's office — a plan designed to reform the City's broken policing system. The ACLU pushed for approval of the consent decree after working with our partners – Communities United, One Northside, Next Steps and Community Renewal Society – to offer comments and ideas to improve the decree. Our partners provided valuable input from their members, who brought various perspectives and life experiences from all across the City of Chicago.

The consent decree is the result of a process that began after the U.S. Department of Justice issued a scathing report on policing in Chicago in 2017. The report clearly pointed to the lack of adequate oversight and control of police on the streets, leading to issues of excessive use of force and a breakdown in relations between the police and

the communities they serve.

The process for implementing the consent decree is now underway. Late in 2019, the Independent Monitor issued her first report on the implementation process – reporting that CPD failed to meet nearly 3 in 4 deadlines during the first six months. Most troubling of all, the Monitor said that CPD had not fully engaged the community and had effectively disenfranchised community members by only allowing input at later stages of the policy development process. The ACLU's community partners are working with CPD to reform these community engagement efforts to ensure more meaningful input is received and incorporated.

Because the consent decree is overseen by a federal judge and the Independent Monitor, and because community involvement is a key piece of this process, it is the best chance at police reform in Chicago in a half century.



“I believe the monitoring team understands the importance of transparency and community involvement in creating real reform of policing in Chicago. Assuring transparency and community involvement are necessary to the success of this consent decree.”

– Rev. Robert Biekman, Community Renewal Society Leader and Pastor of Maple Park UMC

STOP AND FRISK

In October 2019, a report from an independent consultant publicly revealed that over 70% of all pedestrian stops (colloquially known as “stop and frisk”) conducted by Chicago Police target Black people, despite the fact that they represent only about 33% of the population. The report also identified problems with record keeping by police, including the fact that some CPD officers have required multiple attempts – some up to 7 times – to rework forms justifying pedestrian stops they had executed. Of course, police should not need multiple occasions to justify a stop; they should have had a constitutional reason for doing so when the stop takes place.

Because these stops are so invasive, the persistent focus on those of color has continued to leave many community members feel as though they cannot escape police harassment and profiling.

The Consultant’s report is the latest development in the City and ACLU’s efforts to reform stop and frisk. Four years ago, the ACLU issued a report on the use of stop and frisk by Chicago police officers. Our study found that during the summer of 2014, the CPD stopped and frisked people – especially young men of color – at a rate much higher than New York City, whose program of stop and frisk has been ruled unconstitutional.

Our report led to an agreement with the City of Chicago to collect relevant data and to allow an independent consultant to analyze that data and make recommendations for better training and oversight.

Some things have gotten better. The number of pedestrian stops in Chicago has fallen markedly since our agreement went into effect, meaning that fewer people are going through the degrading and humiliating process of being stopped and frisked in public. However, problems persist.

Stop and frisk must be limited and used only when an officer has reasonable suspicion of criminal activity or that the person may be armed. Unjustified stops and frisks erode public trust in the police and they will not be excused or ignored.

PERMANENT TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN DATA COLLECTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW | HB 1613

In 2003, Illinois State Senator Barack Obama sponsored groundbreaking legislation that required law enforcement agencies across Illinois to record and report out on basic information about all traffic stops each year. The new law was driven by the notion that if we knew who was stopped (including their race), why they were stopped, and what happened after they were stopped, police officials could utilize training, oversight and other tools in order to prevent racial profiling.

This public data is critical for communities to address any evidence of profiling. Some places, like Urbana, have created community study groups – including police and neighbors – which has helped the police address disparities in their data.

Unfortunately, the original legislation came with a sunset, meaning that the collection would only last for a few short years. The ACLU led the legislative effort to extend the data collection on three occasions, adding new provisions each time, including the collection of data about pedestrian stops.

This year, legislation was approved and signed into law to make this data collection permanent, and created a permanent task force to study the best way to collect, compile and analyze the data collected. Communities across the state will be able to continue analyzing and learning from the information police departments collect.

Our report this year, *Racism in the Rearview Mirror*, used this data to explore how people of color were still more likely to be stopped and subjected to consent searches by police. An external data expert helped create a website that made it easy for anyone in Illinois to search for and compare data about their local law enforcement agency.

Collection of the following information is required to be collected during a stop: Pedestrian and Traffic Stops:

- Gender & race
- Alleged violation or reason
- Date, time & location
- Whether contraband found or seized
- Officer name & badge number

Traffic Stop:

- Name and address
- Make & year of the vehicle
- If consent search was requested or conducted
- If dog sniff performed and results

Pedestrian Stop:

- If pat down, frisk or search was conducted, reasons that led to it, and whether it was with consent or by other means
- Disposition of stop
- Record of violation, offenses, crimes alleged or charged



FIND OUT MORE: TALKING LIBERTIES PODCAST

PROTECTING CHILDREN IN OUR CARE

Our long term work to improve care and services for children under the care of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) continues unabated, with the goal of creating a system where the first and foremost consideration is what each child needs.

Despite years of advocacy and challenges, we continue to see problems with the way DCFS deals with Illinois' abused and neglected children. For example, DCFS continues to assign investigators with caseloads that exceed limits approved by a federal court. In 2019, ACLU learned of more than 3,000 occasions when a new case was assigned to a DCFS caseworker who already had too many cases.

Caseloads really matter. If a caseworker has too many cases, they cannot thoroughly or thoughtfully explore whether a child can safely stay at home if their family just receives some services or external resources, or whether safety concerns require taking the child from their family.

Another example of the need for our advocacy can be seen in the provision of health care for children in DCFS. In the past few years, the State of Illinois has been moving aggressively to provide Medicaid recipients with health care through managed care organizations (MCOs), entities designed to deliver health care more efficiently and at less cost. A majority of foster children are Medicaid recipients. But providing cheaper health care for children under DCFS may not be the best thing for the child.

Many of the 16,000-plus children under the care of DCFS have complicated health and mental health care needs. In some circumstances, they have cycled through multiple doctors and specialists to arrive at the right regimen of care and medication to address their needs. A medication regimen can be very, very specific meaning that substituting one medication for another could set the child back months.

We have pressed DCFS about how they would assure sufficient access and continued care for DCFS children, but we have received few answers. As a result, we urged DCFS to abandon the idea of an arbitrary date (currently set for early 2020) to put all children in DCFS custody under an MCO. It is the sort of systemic change that could have a profound – and negative – impact on our clients.

We continue to work on these large, systemic issues to improve conditions for children in the custody of DCFS. As long as these children are under the care of the State, we are responsible for their care. The ACLU is committed to securing improved care that is focused on the individual needs of each child.

PROTECTING LGBTQ YOUTH IN CARE RESOLUTION ADOPTED | SR 403

Seeks to determine if DCFS is following state law and agency rules to fulfill its obligations to protect LGBTQ youth in its custody and provide affirming, non-discriminatory care for LGBTQ youth in its custody.

PROMOTING CHILD WELFARE REFORM RESOLUTION ADOPTED | HR 362

Urges state implementation of child welfare reform pursuant to the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). By implementing the FFPSA, Illinois invests in a child welfare system responsive to the specific needs of children and their families, safely prevents the unnecessary placement of children into the foster care system, supports families using promising programs and well-supported practices, and promotes family-based settings for children who enter the foster care system.

LEGAL DIRECTOR BEN WOLF SAYS **GOODBYE** AFTER 35 YEARS

It was the summer of 1984 when Ben Wolf first laid his briefcase down on a desk in the ACLU's Chicago office. He came from a large firm to start a new project at the ACLU of Illinois tasked with reforming state institutions.

In 1984, conditions for those under state care in Illinois were horrific – the child welfare system was in disarray, prisons had poor health care and little educational programming, the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center was a violent and chaotic mess, and Illinois warehoused people with disabilities in large, impersonal state institutions and private nursing homes.

These stubborn, systemic problems would not be resolved through a lawsuit on behalf of a single client. Recognizing this, Ben led a long-term strategy aimed at real, enduring reform of the most-entrenched agencies in the State of Illinois.

In case after case, Ben led legal teams that won structural injunctions, often consent decrees (court-enforced agreements) that forced real change in resistant state agencies. The agreements provided leverage to force funding increases, policy changes, accountability, and oversight by experts.



Over three decades, Ben has worked on a multitude of institutional reform issues - including reforms that allowed thousands with developmental, physical and psychiatric disabilities to move out of rigid state institutions or nursing homes into community settings, improving health care for the 40,000 inmates in state prisons, eliminating solitary confinement for juveniles in state and county detention, reforming the large state mental health facilities, fixing inequity in educational and program opportunities for women prisoners, confronting discrimination against LGBT foster parents, and challenging basic educational opportunities in the East St. Louis school system.

Ben is best known as lead counsel in a federal lawsuit representing all children under the care of DCFS. When he filed the case in 1988, DCFS was a mess. Many of the thousands of children in the child welfare system were neglected; in some instances, the Department literally didn't know where they were. And there were no systemic approaches devoted to moving children into safe, permanent homes.

The consent decree that Ben secured in 1991 created a pathway for reform of the DCFS system. Due to the mechanisms and processes created in the consent decree, the number of children in the care of DCFS fell – from nearly 50,000 in the early 1990s to around 15,000 as thousands of children were adopted into loving, permanent homes.

For thirty-five years, Ben Wolf has stood in the breach for thousands of Illinois residents whose names will never appear in the newspaper, who often were powerless and without a voice in our society. Illinois is losing a steadfast advocate whose work to reform Illinois' systems is not just evident today, but will be for generations.

FIGHTING FOR A **MORE PERFECT UNION**



“This is the work in front of us now – that is where we plant our flag to protect fundamental rights here in Illinois.

This is the beginning point. But begin we must.”

– Colleen Connell, ACLU of Illinois Executive Director

On March 15, 2019, nearly 2,000 ACLU supporters gathered for the annual ACLU Lunch. Coming together from across the state, our attendees included a host of elected officials, donors committed to making change through philanthropy, and community partners who do incredible work of defending and advancing basic rights in Illinois.

The Lunch celebrated achievements of the past, and called on each of us to reach for new, bold victories. In her remarks, keynote speaker Vanita Gupta, President of the Leadership Conference of Civil Rights, emphasized the theme of working together at the local, state and federal level to create this change.



Save the date and join us for the 100th Anniversary ACLU Lunch on Friday, March 27, 2020! Find out more information at aclu-il.org/Lunch2020

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