

Bills:

- Maternal Health - there is work currently being done by State Senator Cristina Castro and a coalition of members to address all of the issues surrounding maternal mortality, especially in Black women. This bill is still being negotiated, but we are looking forward to seeing language (hopefully!) very soon

Menstrual Equity Bills

- The Homeless Act ([HB310](#)) - Creates the Feminine Hygiene Products for the Homeless Act. Provides that feminine hygiene products, including, but not limited to, sanitary napkins, tampons, and panty liners, shall be available free of charge at all homeless shelters that provide temporary housing assistance to women or youth. Provides that a homeless shelter's obligation to satisfy this requirement is subject to the availability of funds in the homeless shelter's general budget.
- School Buildings ([HB156](#)) - Amends the School Code. Provides that a school district shall make menstrual (rather than feminine) hygiene products available, at no cost to students, in each bathroom of every school building (rather than in bathrooms of school buildings). Effective immediately.
- SNAP Benefits ([HB155](#)) - Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Requires the Department of Human Services to adopt rules that permit recipients of benefits provided under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) program, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program to use their benefits to purchase menstrual hygiene products. Requires the Department to apply for any waiver or State Plan amendment, if required, to implement the provisions of the amendatory Act. Provides that implementation shall be contingent on federal approval.
- Higher Education ([HB641](#)) - Amends various Acts relating to the governance of public universities and community colleges in Illinois. Requires the governing board of each public university and community college district to make feminine hygiene products available, at no cost to students, in the bathrooms of facilities or portions of facilities that (i) are owned or leased by the board or over which the board has care, custody, and control and (ii) are used for student instruction or administrative purposes. Effective immediately.

Planning a Pregnancy

- HB135 (Mussman) - Allows for pharmacists to dispense birth control

Description: Amends the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Provides that the Director of Public Health, if a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois, shall establish a standing order complete with the issuance of a prescription for a hormonal contraceptive in accordance with the requirements of the provisions. Provides that if the Director is not a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in Illinois, the Medical Director of the Department of Public Health shall establish the standing order. Amends the Illinois Insurance Code. Requires a group or individual policy of accident and health insurance or managed care plan to provide coverage for patient care services provided by a pharmacist. Makes conforming changes in the State Employees Group Insurance Act of 1971, the Counties Code, the Illinois

Municipal Code, and the School Code. Amends the Pharmacy Practice Act. Provides that the definition of "practice of pharmacy" includes the dispensing of hormonal contraceptives pursuant to the standing order under provisions of the Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Amends the Illinois Public Aid Code. Requires the medical assistance program to cover patient care services provided by a pharmacist for hormonal contraceptives assessment and consultation. Effective January 1, 2022.

- HB3995 (Gabel) - Allows for the establishment and licenses for birth centers.

Can help in areas that might be facing a shortage of full service hospitals or that it is too far to travel for full hospital services. This happens in urban and rural communities throughout Illinois with the closure of many local hospitals.

Description: Creates the Birth Center Licensing Act. Provides that, except as provided by the Act, no person shall open, manage, conduct, offer, maintain, or advertise as a birth center without a valid license issued by the Department of Public Health. Requires all birth centers in existence as of the effective date of the Act to obtain a valid license to operate within 2 years after the adoption of rules by the Department to implement the Act. Provides that an applicant for a license under the Act shall submit an application on forms prescribed by the Department, which shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable license fee, as established by rule by the Department. Provides that licenses under the Act are renewable every 3 years upon submission of specified materials. Requires birth centers, to the extent possible, to link and integrate services with nearby health care facilities. Contains provisions concerning staffing requirements; minimum standards to protect the health and safety of a patient of a birth center; and requirements for reimbursement, reporting, training, and inspections. Requires the Department to adopt specified rules. Contains other provisions. Effective immediately.

- HB3709 (Croke) - This bill allows for infertility coverage for same sex couples. This would give the LGBTQ community the same kind of insurance coverage that is given to same sex couples.

Description: Provides that a policy, contract, or certificate may not impose any exclusions, limitations, or other restrictions on coverage of fertility medications that are different from those imposed on any other prescription medications, nor may it impose any exclusions, limitations, or other restrictions on coverage of any fertility services based on a covered individual's participation in fertility services provided by or to a third party, nor may it impose deductibles, copayments, coinsurance, benefit maximums, waiting periods, or any other limitations on coverage for the diagnosis of infertility, treatment for infertility, and standard fertility preservation services, except as provided in the Section, that are different from those imposed upon benefits for services not related to infertility. Changes the definition of "infertility" to mean a disease, condition, or status characterized by: a failure to establish a pregnancy or to carry a pregnancy to live birth after 12 months of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse if the woman is 35 years of age or younger, or after 6 months of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse if the woman is over 35 years of age; a person's inability to reproduce either as a single individual or with a partner without medical intervention; or a licensed physician's findings based on a patient's medical, sexual, and reproductive history, age, physical findings, or diagnostic testing.

Ensuring Equitable Restrooms in businesses

- HB3195 (Stuart) - Amends the Equitable Restrooms Act. Allows for businesses that would like to install unisex bathrooms the ability to do so. It's a may and not a shall

Provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, any multiple-occupancy restroom may be identified as an all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom and designated for use by any person of any gender. Requires that an all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom must include specified signage, stall dividers, and partitions for urinals. Provides that any multiple-occupancy restroom may be converted into an all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom. Provides that, if a facility commences construction, or commences alterations exceeding 50% of the facility, and implements an all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom, the all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom must satisfy or include specified requirements. Requires certain newly constructed or previously existing restrooms to be designated as all-gender multiple-occupancy restrooms. Provides that, where a person or entity must meet female-to-male ratio requirements, each individual toilet stall in an all-gender multiple-occupancy restroom may be counted toward the required number of either female or male toilet stalls. Provides that during any inspection of a facility by a health officer, health inspector, or building inspector, the health officer, health inspector, or building inspector may inspect the facility to determine whether it complies with the provisions. Requires the Department of Public Health to adopt rules to implement the provisions. Defines "multiple-occupancy restroom". Makes other changes. Effective immediately.

Protecting the safety of abortion providers

- HB3990 (Andrade) - Amends the Reproductive Health Act. Shields the personal information of abortion providers from Freedom of Information Act Requests.

Description: Provides that a health care professional who provides abortion-related care may submit, to any governmental agency, person, business, or association, a written request that the governmental agency, person, business, or association refrain from disclosing any personal information about the health care professional. Provides that if a governmental agency receives a written request from a health care professional, the governmental agency shall not publicly post or display publicly available content that includes any personal information of the health care professional. Exempts the personal information of the health care professional from the Freedom of Information Act. Provides that if a person, business, or association receives a written request from a health care professional, the person, business, or association shall refrain from publicly posting or displaying on the Internet publicly available content that includes the personal information of a health care professional. Provides that no person, business, or association shall solicit, sell, or trade any personal information of the health care professional with the intent to post an imminent or serious threat to the health and safety of the health care professional or his or her immediate family. Allows a health care professional to bring an action against a governmental agency, person, business, or association, seeking injunctive or declaratory relief if a written request is violated. Provides that it is a Class 3 felony for any person to knowingly publicly post on the Internet the personal information of a health care professional or his or her immediate family if the person knows or reasonably should know that publicly posting the personal information poses an imminent and serious threat to the health and safety of the health care professional or his or her immediate family, and the violation is a proximate cause of bodily injury or death of the health care professional or his or her immediate family member. Makes a conforming change in the Freedom of Information Act.

- HB1063 (Peters) - HIV Decriminalization - removes the stigma around living with HIV

Description: removes the penalties that people living with HIV face for their every day actions. In Illinois, people living with HIV can be criminally prosecuted for everything from consensual sex to donating blood and tissue. HIV criminalization in Illinois stigmatizes people living with HIV and makes their legal behavior illegal. This bill will repeal this outdated law and treat HIV like any other chronic disease. This will lead to overall better public health outcomes.

This bill recently passed on a bi-partisan roll call of 90-0 in the Illinois House!

Wrap up: As you can see, there is a lot going on around health care this Spring in the Illinois General Assembly. I am excited that we are going to have a robust conversation about some of the bills that have garnered a lot of public attention and are important to advancing equity in our healthcare system and the public health of all Illinoisans. I'll throw it back to you, Kristina.