

Legislative Update

Illinois Action for Children

January 15, 2015



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children

Federal Update

- Midterm Elections
 - U.S. House of Representatives
 - 435 Representatives
 - Determined by population; each state is different
 - Currently controlled by Republicans 246-186 and 3 vacancies
 - 18 from Illinois - 10 Dems and 8 GOP after election
 - U.S. Senate
 - Each State has 2 Senators
 - Illinois' Senators are Sen. Durbin and Sen. Kirk

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Federal Update

- Election Results
 - Illinois has 2 new Republican Representatives
 - Congressman Dold (10th District) – North Shore
 - Congressman Bost (12th District) - Murphysboro
 - No Change for Illinois' U.S. Senators
 - Senator Durbin won re-election
 - Senator Kirk will face election in 2016
 - U.S. Senate now controlled by Republicans
 - First time since 2006
 - Republicans now control both chambers of Congress

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Federal Update

- Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization (S.1086)
 - The Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is the law that states have to follow when using Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) dollars for child care assistance
 - CCDF is comprised of CCDBG discretionary funding of \$2.35 billion in FY14 and \$2.917 billion in mandatory funding. States may also use their own funding
 - Reauthorization is an update of the rules and standards governing child care in the states
 - First update since the program's creation in 1996

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- Reauthorization made changes in the following areas:
 - Consumer Education and Health and Safety Standards
 - Program Standards and Quality Improvement Activities
 - Family Friendly Policies
 - Payment Rates and Practices

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State of the Union

- President laid out vision for 2015

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Congressional Priorities for 2015

- Department of Homeland Security Budget Expires in February
 - Contains funding for the President's Executive Order on immigration

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State Budget & Revenue

- The state income tax rate went from 5% to 3.75% on January 1, 2015
- Impact on the current year's budget
 - The FY15 budget is about \$2B lower than what's needed to maintain the current level of programs
 - In addition, there continues to be a historical backlog of unpaid bills
 - Lawmakers took no budget or revenue action
 - Unclear on how the new Governor will proceed

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State Budget & Revenue

- Impact on Child Care
 - Child Care began the fiscal year with a \$190 million deficit
 - \$84 million reduced appropriation
 - \$24 million cut + \$60 million non-annualized supplemental
 - Increased caseload
 - Consistent movement of families to more expensive care
 - Rate increases and copayment reduction
 - CCMS Issues forced automatic redeterminations
 - Child Care needs a \$300 million supplemental in the current fiscal year

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Next Steps

- Send us your stories!
 - We are looking for stories about the importance of child care to families and the devastating effect to your community if their child care is lost.
 - Please email your stories to advocacy@actforchildren.org
 - We will be working with you to place these stories in local and statewide media.

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Next Steps

Talk to Your Legislators

- Inform them about the child care funding crisis
- Explain to them the importance of child care and early childhood education
- Show them your program
- Remind them that the State needs new revenue
- Illinois Action for Children is here to help!

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Save the Date

- Regional Public Policy Caucus
 - Thursday, January 22nd - Naperville, IL (Sold out)
 - Thursday, January 29th – Bloomington, IL
- Legislative Call In Day – Wednesday, February 4th
- Child Care Rally Days
 - Thursday February 19th
 - Wednesday March 11th
- Spring into Action Conference and Rally Day
 - April 21-22 – Springfield, IL

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Questions?

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