Legislative Update

Illinois Action for Children

January 15, 2015
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
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
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
Federal Update

- 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
State of the Union

• President laid out vision for 2015
Congressional Priorities for 2015

• Department of Homeland Security Budget Expires in February
  – Contains funding for the President’s Executive Order on immigration
Illinois Action for Children is a catalyst for organizing, developing and supporting strong families and powerful communities where children matter most.

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
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
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.
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!
Save the Date

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