



HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

2017 ILLINOIS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Heartland Alliance advocates for policies and programs that end poverty and create opportunity. A strong and sustainable state budget is central to that effort. We support revenue solutions to advance a sustainable state budget and policy solutions that advance justice and address poverty and inequity.

BUILDING ASSETS

Universal Children's Savings Accounts: Expands educational and economic opportunity for Illinois families by providing a seeded college savings account at birth for every child born in Illinois and encouraging savings by offering a match savings incentives for low and moderate income families. (HB3691)

Protect Savings: Protects ABLE accounts and 529 college savings accounts from debt collection attempts, ensuring financial security for Illinois families while they pay any debts. (SB1246)

Car Insurance Fairness: Makes auto insurance more fair and affordable for all safe drivers by prohibiting the use of credit scores in determining car insurance rates.

EQUITY & JUSTICE

Criminal Background Screening: Limits the reporting of criminal record information by private background check companies to a) conviction information (not arrests), and b) records within five years, to help ensure that everyone has an opportunity for quality jobs, housing, education, and volunteer opportunities. (SB2074/ HB3885)

Expanding Eligibility for Sealing: Expands eligibility for sealing of criminal records to a broader number of convictions, helping people with criminal records avoid barriers to opportunity (HB2373/SB1403).

Rights for Trafficking Survivors: Expands the right of survivors of trafficking to vacate any criminal convictions that stem from the survivor's exploitation. (HB2843/SB1704)

Higher Ed Ban the Box: Prohibits colleges and universities from asking or considering a person's criminal record during the admissions process, which often deters applicants from seeking education and training (HB3142).

College Hunger: Extends SNAP eligibility to students experiencing hunger who are pursuing a career and technical education certificate or degree program at a community college and develops a protocol for screening students for potential SNAP eligibility. (HB3211)

Driver's Licenses: Prohibits driver's license suspension for non-moving violations such as tickets, fines, or fees, or for other reasons unrelated to bad driving. (SB1614/HB3177)

Diaper Bill: Creates a program that supports Illinois families living in deep poverty with a monthly diaper allowance of \$80 towards the purchase of diapers for each child under age three. (HB3895)

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Medicaid: Medicaid is the backbone of our health care safety net and an effective state-federal partnership. Heartland Alliance is working to ensure that Illinois leaders in Congress and the General Assembly, as well as the Governor, are strong voices in support of Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion.

Minimum Wage: Raises the state's minimum wage to improve the lives of Illinois workers and create a more competitive economy.

WE BELIEVE everyone in society benefits when people who experience disparities in safety, health, housing, education, economic opportunity, and justice are able to exit poverty, heal from trauma, and achieve stability; secure their rights; and shape policies that respond to their needs.

HEALTHCARE