

## **VOTE YES ON HB 1516 SA2:**

**SPONSORS: REPRESENTATIVE FLOWERS – BRADY – FEIGENHOLTZ – FORD – HERNANDEZ, IVES, WELCH, MAYFIELD, M. DAVIS, W. DAVIS, DUNKIN, SOTO, CASSIDY, C. MITCHELL, TURNER, LILLY, WILLIAMS, GOLAR, BERRIOS, GABEL, RILEY, JONES, CHAPA LAVIA, EVANS, MARTWICK, JAKOBSSON, FINE, CABELLO, GORDON-BOOTH, B. MITCHELL, SIMS, MOYLAN, WHEELER, ANTHONY, JACKSON SR.**

## **RESTORATION OF ADULT DENTAL IN THE STATE'S MEDICAID PROGRAM**

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### **THE PROBLEM: Dental services in the state's Medicaid program were cut for adults in 2012.**

- Traditionally Illinois covered non-emergency adult dental services in Medicaid. However, Illinois eliminated these services as a Medicaid benefit for most adults in the Save Medicaid Access & Resources Together (SMART) Act, public act 097-0689 in 2012.
- Pew Center on the States estimates that preventable dental conditions were the primary diagnosis in 830,590 visits to the emergency room (ER) nationwide in 2009, a 16% increase from 2006.
- It cost the healthcare system anywhere from \$867 million to \$2.1 billion to treat dental conditions in hospital ERs in 2010.
- **In-patient ER treatment for dental problems averaged \$6,498, compared with the cost of preventive care in a dentist's office which averaged \$660. This is nearly 10 times more expensive than the cost of preventive care delivered in a dentist's office.**
- From 2008 to 2011, Illinois hospitals in the Chicago metropolitan area had nearly 77,000 emergency or other types of patient visits for non-injury, dental related ailments.
- **Illinois is currently leaving money on the table, not taking full advantage of the one-to-one federal matching dollars to provide basic dental benefits to adults.** Individuals with no dental coverage will be forced to use ER settings and the state will be required to cover the cost. It is estimated when California eliminated its adult dental coverage in 2009, the state lost approximately \$134 million in federal match Medicaid funding. In addition, with the multiplier effect, the cut to adult dental care cost California more than \$500 million, including loss of jobs, wages and business activity.
- **Linkage to dental care avoids costly reconstructive and invasive surgeries and the need to seek high cost emergency treatment.** Also research shows that access to regular dental care is critical to help detect and diagnose early manifestations of osteoporosis, certain cancers, eating disorders, substance abuse, and HIV infection and progression to AIDS, all which result in better outcomes and lower costs if identified and treated early.

### **WHAT HB1516 SA2 DOES: Fully restores dental services for adults under Medicaid.**

- Requires Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS) to restore dental services as a benefit for adults in the Medicaid program.

### **HOW MUCH DOES HB 1516 SA2 COST: .**

- HFS estimated that restoration of adult dental services would be budget neutral, or requires no appropriations for the remainder of FY14.
- Illinois will receive federal matching funds (50% match) for these services when they start in 2014, and 100% match for those newly eligible for Medicaid (e.g Medicaid Expansion population) in 2014

## **Supporting Organizations**

AARP  
Access Living  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago  
AgeOptions  
Alliance for Community Services  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
Aunt Martha's  
Campaign for Better Healthcare (CBHC)  
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH)  
Citizen Action  
Community Behavioral Healthcare Association  
Community Renewal Society  
Crusader Community Health  
Ecker Center  
EverThrive Illinois  
Family Voices of Illinois  
Gallatin County Wellness and Dental Center  
Health and Disability Advocates (HDA)  
Health and Medicine Policy Research Group (HMPRG)  
Health Care Council of Illinois  
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights  
Heritage Behavioral Health Center  
Howard Brown Health Center  
Human Resources Development Institute (HRDI)  
IARF  
Illinois Assistive Technology Program  
Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging Legislative Committee  
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)  
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS)  
Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)  
Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA)  
Illinois Public Health Association  
Illinois State Dental Society  
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
Maine Center, Inc.  
Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Taskforce  
Planned Parenthood of Illinois  
NAMI Chicago  
NAMI Illinois  
Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium  
Ounce of Prevention Fund  
Project Irene  
RefugeeOne  
Sacred Creations  
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana  
Southern Illinois Healthcare  
The ARC of Illinois  
The H Group  
Thresholds  
Turning Point BHCC  
University of Illinois College of Dentistry