



'Health is Health' campaign applauds House passage of HB2595 supporting mental health in Illinois

SPRINGFIELD, IL., APRIL 22, 2021— Today, [Health is Health](#), a new coalition campaign backed by more than 75 groups advocating for commonsense mental health and addiction care, applauded the passage of [HB2595](#) in the Illinois House. The bill advances access and equity in mental health care which will save lives. The bill has unanimously passed through the House Mental Health & Addiction Committee twice and received an impressive 114-0 vote in the full House today. HB2595 has large bipartisan support, with 37 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle.

“When I talk to pediatricians, they’re telling me they’re not seeing kids for physical health issues because they’re not getting sick, there’s no flu, there’s no cold because they’re wearing masks, but they’re seeing children every single day for mental health issues,” [said](#) Rep. Deb Conroy, D-Villa Park.

Currently, large inequities exist in how health plans cover mental health care. Many insurers use flawed and discriminatory guidelines to avoid paying for the mental health care and treatment services granted under existing federal law. Too often people are unable to access needed treatment and services when their health plan deems the treatment “not medically necessary.” HB2595 would require that all health plans in Illinois follow generally accepted standards of mental health care – which are best practices agreed upon by clinical experts – when making medical necessity determinations and use medical necessity criteria/guidelines reflecting these standards.

“This is an exciting and important step toward building healthcare equity in Illinois,” said Bill Smith, Founder of [Inseparable](#), a Health is Health coalition member. “With such clear and necessary benefits, the momentum behind HB2595 is heartening and can hopefully one day serve as a model in other state legislatures looking to better serve the mental health needs of their constituents.”

“This is big, and will change lives for people across the state. The unanimous and bipartisan support confirms what we know, HB2595 is mental health care everyone can agree on.” said

David Applegate of Kennedy Forum Illinois. “I look forward to working with our leaders in the Senate to get this to the Governor’s desk.”

[Backed by more than 75 organizations](#), Health is Health is a coalition of leaders from every corner of Illinois. The bill’s success is in large part due to the steadfast leadership of the co-sponsors and House leadership. These mental health champions tirelessly fought for the rights of our families.

Primary Sponsors Rep. Deb Conroy and Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz and
Co-sponsors Rep. Jonathan Carroll, Rep. Terra Costa Howard, Rep. Maura Hirschauer,
Rep. Bob Morgan, Rep. Will Guzzardi, Rep. Maurice A. West, II, Rep. Kelly M. Cassidy,
Rep. Nicholas K. Smith, Rep. Katie Stuart, Rep. Angelica Guerrero-Cuellar, Rep.
Lindsey LaPointe, Jr., Rep. William Davis, Rep. Margaret Croke, Rep. Barbara
Hernandez, Rep. Frances Ann Hurley, Rep. Amy Grant, Rep. Joyce Mason, Rep. Anna
Moeller, Rep. Mark L. Walker, Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, Rep. Kathleen Willis, Rep. Sam
Yingling, Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr., Rep. Janet Yang Rohr, and Rep. Ann M. Williams.

Speaker Emanuel Chris Welch, Majority Leader Greg Harris, Deputy Majority Leader
Mary E. Flowers, Assistant Republican Leader Ryan Spain, Assistant Majority Leader
Delia C. Ramirez, Assistant Majority Leader Natalie A. Manley, Assistant Majority Leader
Marcus C. Evans, Assistant Majority Leader Robyn Gabel, Assistant Majority Leader
Elizabeth Hernandez, and Assistant Majority Leader Jaime M. Andrade, Jr.

Health is Health works to:

- Establish clear definitions and standards for when services and treatment qualify as medically necessary.
- Require insurers to rely on transparent criteria published by non-profit clinical societies for mental disorder medical necessity determinations.
- Require insurers to cover all medically necessary mental health and substance use disorder care and explicitly prohibits limiting benefits to short-term, acute treatment or refusing to cover whole levels of care.
- Encourage compliance with Illinois' parity law by making sure illegal practices are appropriately penalized.

Supporting Organizations

AIDS Foundation Chicago • American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Illinois Chapter • Augustyn Family Services, Inc. • Blooming Life Institute • Chasing Hope Foundation • Chicago Urban League • Coalition of Illinois Counselor Organizations • Community Behavioral Healthcare Association (CBHA) • Davis Mental Health Group • Deborah’s Place • Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) • Drug Users Health Collective of Chicago • Duney’s Defense • Ecker Center for Behavioral Health • Equality Illinois • Family Support Services • GROW in Illinois • Habilitative Systems, Inc. • Head/Heart Therapy • Healthcare Alternative Systems • Health & Medicine Policy Research Group • Heartland Alliance • Hope for the Day • Illinois Affiliation of Marriage and Family Therapists (IAMFT) • Illinois Academy of Family

Physicians (IAFP) • Illinois Association for Behavioral Health (IABH) • Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) • Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) • Illinois Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry • Illinois Counseling Association • Illinois Health & Hospital Association (IHA) • Illinois Mental Health Counselors Association • Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) • Illinois Psychiatric Society • Illinois Psychological Association • Illinois Religious Action Center • Illinois State Medical Society • Inseparable • Legal Council for Health Justice • League of Women Voters • Live4Lali • MADO Healthcare • Memorial Behavioral Health • Mental Health America of Illinois • Mental Health America of the North Shore • Mental Health Summit • Midwest Asian Health Summit • MN Therapies • NAMI Barrington Area • NAMI Chicago • NAMI Cook County North Suburban • NAMI Greater Mississippi Valley • NAMI Illinois • NAMI Kane County North • NAMI Kane-South, Dekalb, and Kendall Counties (KDK) • NAMI Lake County Illinois • NAMI of McHenry County • NAMI Metro Suburban • NAMI Northern Illinois • NAMI Northwest Suburban • NAMI of Southwestern Illinois • NAMI Sauk Area • NAMI Schaumburg Area • NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago • NAMI Tri-County Illinois • NAMI Will-Gundy • National Association of Social Workers (NASW) - IL • Prevention Partnership, Inc. • Psychotherapy Action Network • Rosecrance • Shriver Center on Poverty Law • Supportive Housing Providers Association • The Josselyn Center • The Kennedy Forum Illinois • The Porchlight Collective, SAP • Thresholds • Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) • United Congregations of Metro East • West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force Prevention Partnership, Inc. • Well Being Trust • Wildflower Center for Emotional Health

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