

Health Care Policy in Illinois

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Health Coverage – workers

- Health and family health – quality of life – medical home, prevention, maintenance, early diagnosis and treatment
- Employability and productivity
- Economic stability and mobility, less bankruptcy and debt
- Reduced family stress

Health Coverage – employers

- Increased productivity, missed days, sick at work incidence, contagion
- Reduced employee debt trouble
- Lower cost of doing business by lowering cost of health coverage
- Retain healthier employees in pool
- Level the playing field (play or pay)

Illinois situation

- In spite of public expansion, overall continued increase in uninsured (1.8M)
- Employers increasing employee costs or dropping altogether
- Not just uninsured, but declining insurance, and underinsured (effectively uninsured)

Recent Illinois Advances

- FamilyCare – 400,000 parents of covered kids, mostly low-income workers, premium assistance choice.
- All Kids – literally all (undocumented, higher income), sliding scale
- Labor contract with home child care includes coverage
- Illinois Health Connect (access to doctors)

Options for Next Steps

- Initiatives for child care and health care workers under Medicaid
- Pooling, high deductible plus tax-assisted accounts (PFIYDS), etc.
- Health care for all – federal
- Health care for all – state
- People way ahead of politicians

Health Care for All -- Illinois

- Adequate Health Care Task Force – consumers, advocates, hospitals, doctors, insurance, academics
- Hearings in every district, subject matter hearings, paid consultants (\$1M worth)
- Hybrid Plan – solid consensus – public expansions, benchmark affordable plan, subsidy, small employer help, industry reforms, employer assessment, individual mandate -- \$3.5B needed

Health care for all – Next Steps

- Final report this week
- Bill(s) in the coming session. Rival proposal from the insurance industry. Wonk process.
- Much organizing – powerful grassroots movement building; alliances emerging; opposition out early in media

Health Care for All -- Questions

- Governor?
- Show me the money!! Wrapped in larger revenue reform, thus entwined with education funding forces, Gov's promise
- Federal help? Presidential season
- Other states – Governor, Mass
- People power (Mass or Clinton?)