

Support HB347 (with Senate Amendment 1)

Improve Immunization Data & Reimbursement Rates for Children in Illinois

Sponsor: Senator Hastings

Improve the Immunization Data in Illinois

- Requires all immunizations to be entered into the Illinois immunization data registry, the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange (I-CARE). Currently, the only vaccinees included in ICARE are those provided to children through the Medicaid program, COVID vaccine and any vaccines provided at a pharmacy.
- Maintains current law providing an opt-out exemption for any person (or the parent or guardian of a minor) who does not want to provide vaccination history to the registry.
- Increases the Vaccines for Children (VFC) reimbursement rate to 70% of the maximum allowable charge (\$23.87) by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. As a result, the current reimbursement rate of \$6.40 would go to \$16.71.

Impact of These Changes

- More accurate immunization data will help Illinois track immunization rates across the state and identify and address immunization disparities. Currently, Illinois does not have any way to accurately identify areas or groups in need of additional support to access immunizations or to provide education.
- More accurate immunizations records for each child, adult and senior will help to avoid duplicate immunizations.
- Increased immunization data would assist public health departments when investigating outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, e.g., measles, mumps, rubella.
- Currently, 45 states have some type of mandate to provide information to a state immunization registry regardless of insurance coverage.
- Reimbursement rates for the VFC program were not included in the rate increases related to the hospital assessment included in this year's budget. Illinois' current pediatric immunization reimbursement rate (\$6.40) is one of the lowest in the country. A fairer rate can be expected to expand access to those persons who desire vaccinations.
- The very outdated Illinois reimbursement rate has been frozen for decades and does not reflect increases in administration burdens of the VFC program on practices. Currently, private insurance provides payment of between \$30 to \$60 per vaccine. For the 9 vaccines that a child receives between birth and 2 years old, a provider will be paid approximately \$540 for a child on private insurance and \$57.60 for a child on Medicaid. This bill partially reduces that glaring disparity.

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Support for HB347 in Illinois House

Advocate Aurora Health
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Amer. Cancer Soc. Cancer Act. Ntwk
Ann & R. Lurie Chldn's Hosp. of Chgo.
Chicago Department of Public Health
City of Chicago
Cook County Dep't of Public Health
DeKalb County Health Department
DuPage County Health Department

Erie Family Health Centers
Everthrive Illinois
Health & Medicine Policy Rsrch Group
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Action for Children
Ill. Chpt, Amer. Acad. of Pediatrics
Illinois Pharmacists Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Rural Health Association

Lake County Board of Health
McHenry County Dep't of Health
Nat'l Ass'n of Social Workers (IL)
Northern IL Public Health Consortium
Respiratory Health Association
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Start Early (Ounce of Prevention)
Winnebago County Health Dep't