



Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Policy Priorities

COVID-19 Recovery Response

- Advocate for adequate and equitable funding that addresses the disparities exacerbated by COVID-19 including access to utility assistance, emergency cash assistance and health care access.
- Provide relief for small landlords and homeowners and ensure access to affordable, high-quality housing regardless of immigration status.

Protecting Immigrant and Language Access Rights

- Advocate for the appointment of a Director and funding for the Governor's Office of New Americans.
- Continue to support and increase funding for Illinois **Welcoming Centers**, **Immigrant Services**, and **Access to Justice** programs which provide pivotal services for low-income limited English proficient immigrants and refugees.
- Ensure that every state department in Illinois has a language access plan that is culturally competent and receptive to our communities. In addition, holding departments accountable for what they are doing to ascertain that grant dollars are going to Latinx communities across the state.

Health Equity

- Healthcare for all, irrespective of immigration status.
- Advocate for programs, policies and funding that advances healthcare including mental health for all immigrants and ensures healthcare equity--prioritizing funding for the **Community Health Navigator Program, Safety Net Hospitals, FQHCs and Free and Charitable Clinics.**
- Support expansion of community healthcare centers that are culturally competent, strengthen equity, and modernize health care delivery.

Education Equity for Latinx Students

- Fully fund our funding formula to ensure Illinois students have access to world-class teachers, textbooks, facilities and support services.
- Create, implement and promote programs that address the achievement gap for all students in our education system (i.e. **Parent Mentoring Program**)
- Increase access to higher education and vocational training by expanding financial aid opportunities. Promote efforts to increase student and faculty diversity at all institutions of higher learning. (i.e. University of Illinois' **Hispanic Center of Excellence Program**).

Latinx Representation Matters

- Support naturalization efforts through the **New Americans Initiative**. In Illinois, over 380,000 legal permanent residents are eligible to naturalize
- Advocate for programs and policies that advance voting rights and ensure fair elections.
- Expand efforts to increase the diversity of the offices in the State of Illinois (I.E. CMS, IDOT, DOC, E.T.C.) judiciary, corporate leadership and boardrooms, legal, medical and high-tech professions and academia.

Economic Justice for Latinx Workers, Families, and Business



- Continue to support immigrant families beyond the current emergency and advocate for the expansion of the state **Earned Income Tax Credit**.
- Increase investments in workforce development programs that promote equity, sustainability and livable wages. Fight for a safe workplace for all Illinois residents where workers have agency and voice.
- Address the pay gap for the Latinx community and increase resources for women and minority owned businesses (i.e. minority business enterprises, women business enterprise, disadvantaged business enterprise, etc).
- Fight for re-investment in Latino/x communities that have experienced ramifications of the war on drugs. Ensure Latinx representation on the R3 Board and funding to community organizations who work directly with Latinx communities impacted by the over criminalization of cannabis

Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus


Legislative Priorities - Highlights








2022

COVID-19 Recovery Response




Legislative/Budget Win	Bill Number & Chief Sponsor	Summary
BUDGET: \$108 Million for Early Intervention Services 	SB 3810/HB 5005 (Sen. Lightford/Rep. Hernandez):	Allocates funding for Early Intervention services, Parents Too Soon, and Healthy Families.
BUDGET: NEW \$9 Million (GRF) for IL Free and Charitable Clinics 	SB 4002/HB 4859 (Sen. Villa/Rep. Mah):	Addresses health equity for the uninsured and underinsured by providing funding to Free & Charitable Care Clinics.
Continue to advocate	SB 3913 (Sen. Villa/Rep. Guzzardi):	Extends sealing of eviction court files until 2024.
Continue to advocate	SB 1593 (Sen Villa/Rep Ortiz)	Creates the Workplace COVID 19 Safety Committees Act
Continue to advocate	SB 3800 (Sen Villa/Rep Hirschauer)	Requires IDPH to collect and make public COVID-19 workplace data for specific sectors known to have low wage immigrant workers.

Protecting Immigrant and Language Access Rights



SENT TO GOVERNOR 	HB 1567 (Rep. Hernandez/Sen. Villa):	Clarifies the role and responsibilities of the Governor's Office of New Americans (GONA).
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PUBLIC ACT: 102-0827 	SB 3144 (Sen. Villanueva/Rep. Gong-Gershowitz)	Creates the Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Act.
SENT TO GOVERNOR 	HB 5214 (Rep. Hernandez/Sen. Villa):	Ensures access to an interpreter for any parent who is deaf or Limited English Proficiency for additional educational meetings beyond IEP.
SENT TO GOVERNOR 	HB 4332 (Rep. Hirschauer/Sen. Villa):	Allows healthcare students with an ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number) to be listed in the health care worker registry.
BUDGET: An additional \$25 Million to Illinois Welcoming Centers 		Provides an additional 25 million to Illinois Welcoming Centers
BUDGET: Funding for Immigrant Integration Increased to \$52 Million 		\$38 million (GRF) + \$14 million (ARPA) re-appropriation
BUDGET: Illinois Migrant Council \$90,000 in Funding 		\$90,000 (GRF) for the Illinois Migrant Council for migrant services.
BUDGET: Illinois Access to Justice Program - Resurrection Project Increased Funding 		\$10 million for the Illinois Access to Justice Program - Resurrection Project
Continue to advocate	HB 5324 (Rep. Guerrero-Cuellar):	Created the Undocumented Witness Protection Law.

Health Equity


<p>BUDGET: Fully funds Medicaid liability and extends coverage to undocumented Individuals aged 42 -54.</p> 	<p>HB 4437 (Rep. Ramirez):</p>	<p>Expands Healthy Illinois for All to provide Medicaid coverage for undocumented individuals ages 19-54.</p>
<p>BUDGET: Domestic Violence Services Budget Increase of \$50 Million</p> 		<p>GRF increase of \$50 million for domestic violence providers and programs.</p>
<p>BUDGET: Increase in Oral Health Forum Funding</p> 		<p>\$300K (IDHS) + \$100K (IDPH)</p>
<p>Continue to advocate</p>	<p>SB 2108/HB 4711 (Sen. Villa / Rep. Avelar):</p>	<p>Protects farmworkers from pesticide exposure.</p>
<p>Continue to advocate</p>	<p>SB 3450 (Sen. Villa/Rep. Avelar):</p>	<p>Expands Medicaid coverage for people with chronic disabilities regardless of legal status</p>
<p>Continue to advocate</p>	<p>SB 3461 (Sen. Villa/Rep Collins):</p>	<p>Creates a monthly diaper allowance for low income families.</p>
<p>Continue to advocate</p>	<p>HB 4234 (Rep. B. Hernandez/Sen. Villa):</p>	<p>Creates a breast pump tax exemption.</p>

Education Equity for Latinx Students




<p>PUBLIC ACT 102-0875</p> 	<p>SB 3986 (Sen. Paccione Zayas /Rep. LaPointe):</p>	<p>Too Young to Test - Prohibits standardized testing for children Pre-K to 2nd grade.</p>
<p>PUBLIC ACT 102-0713</p> 	<p>SB 3988 (Sen. Paccione Zayas /Rep. Avelar):</p>	<p>Lowers the age for paraprofessionals in Pre-K through eighth grade classrooms to 18 years old, rather than 19.</p>

PUBLIC ACT 102-0876 	SB 3990 (Sen. Paccione Zayas /Rep. Andrade):	Requires school counseling services to include Career and Technical Education to help students consider the full range of educational plans following high school.
SENT TO GOVERNOR 	SB 3991 (Sen. Paccione Zayas /Rep. Collins):	Allows for automatic bonus deposits into Child Savings Accounts for children from financially insecure households.
BUDGET: Increase in Evidence Based Funding by \$350.2 million 		K-12 Education Evidence Based Funding increased by \$350.2 million.
BUDGET: Increase in the Parent Mentor Program by 8 Million 		An increase of 8 Million (GRF) AND \$10 Million re-appropriation for the Parent Mentor Program
BUDGET: Grow your Own Teachers Program Funding 		2.4 Million (GRF) for the Grow your Own Teachers Program and 1.03 Million (ARPA) for the GOTP associated with the Historically Disadvantaged Male Initiative.
BUDGET: Minority Teacher Scholarship Funding 		\$4.2 Million Funding for the Minority Teacher Scholarship funding.
BUDGET: \$4 Million Total for the Alternative Schools Network 		\$4 Million total for the Alternative Schools Network.
Continue to advocate	HB 4052 (Rep. Hernandez/Sen. Villa):	Creates a “Dreamers” lottery scratch off game to fund Illinois Dream Fund Commission scholarships.

Latinx Representation Matters

SENT TO GOVERNOR 	SB 3865 / HB5004 (Sen. Simmons /Rep. Ortiz):	Removes the word “alien” from Illinois statutory language.
Continue to advocate	HB 989: (Rep. Delgado):	Strengthens annual reporting of corporate board diversity by publicly held corporations in Illinois.
Continue to advocate	HB 1811: (Rep. Andrade/Sen. Cunningham):	Prevents using data analytics related to race and zip code to be used in employment and creditworthiness decisions.

Economic Justice for Latinx Workers, Families, and Business

BUDGET: Permanently Expands IL Earned Income Tax Credit and includes ITIN eligibility 	SB 3774 (Sen. Aquino/Rep. Ammons):	Expands the Earned Income Tax Credit, age and ITIN eligibility, and adds a child dependent tax credit.
BUDGET: An additional \$5 Million to the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment 		Provides an additional \$5 million to the Office of Minority Economic Empowerment for small business support efforts
BUDGET: IL Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Funding 		\$500K for the IL Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Continue to advocate	HB 4608 (Rep. Delgado/Sen. Villivalam):	Requires Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to submit recommendations to the Governor regarding the efficiency, cleanliness, and

		safety of the public transportation system.
Continue to advocate	HB 5061 (Rep. Davis/Sen. Muñoz):	Allows a county to establish procurement goals to promote businesses owned and operated by minority, women, and persons with disabilities.
Continue to advocate	HB 5137 (Rep. Ortiz):	Increases wages for homemaker services.
Continue to advocate	HB 5275 (Rep. Gonzalez):	Creates the Ensuring Essential Services Act requiring DHS to provide uninterrupted services to individuals with developmental disabilities.
Continue to advocate	HB 5389 (Rep. Gonzalez):	Creates a child tax credit for taxpayers who have at least one child and whose income does not exceed specific guidelines.
Continue to advocate	SB 3607 (Sen. Villanueva):	Requires DHS to increase reimbursement rates to build towards liveable wages for front line personnel in residential and day programs, and service coordination agencies, serving persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.