



# Newsletter

## Lame Duck Session Recap

Dear Friend,

Here's an insightful scoop into the work the 102nd General Assembly accomplished during the Lame Duck Session, marking the end of the previous General Assembly while introductions of the newly inaugurated 103rd arose. As the 103rd session is starting, here are some important reflective highlights we passed with the closing of the last.

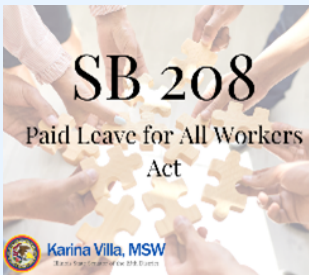
### HB4664: The Patients and Providers Protection Act



HB4664 codifies privacy and protection rights for both healthcare professionals and individuals seeking an abortion, fertility treatment or gender-affirming care in Illinois. For healthcare professionals, it protects their Illinois license if they are penalized for providing reproductive healthcare that is illegal in another state, but legal here. Both individuals in Illinois seeking care and those providing it are shielded from any out-of-state action against them in relation to reproductive healthcare. For those out of state, if a judgment is entered against them for receiving an abortion or gender-affirming surgery, they are provided a counterclaim, as it is legal in this state.

### SB208: Paid Leave for All Workers Act

SB208 mandates that employers must provide paid leave to all employees, for full-time employees this will be equivalent to 40 hours (or 5 days) within a year, and for part-time employees, 1 hour of paid leave will accrue for every 40 hours worked. This leave can be used for any reason, whether as vacation, personal or sick time. The employee is not obligated to give any reason for taking the leave. The employee can only be required to give notice of taking the paid leave 7 days in advance when possible or if the leave is not foreseeable, the employee must notify the employer as soon as practical.



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## HB1688: School Bus Driver Shortage



HB1688 I carried in an effort to help address the school bus driver shortage. Much of the time it takes in becoming a bus driver rests in waiting for official licensing to do so. This bill creates two classes of School Bus Driver Permits to conform the Vehicle Code to the way the Illinois Secretary of State processes School Bus Driver Permit applications, making one permit for first-division vehicles, and another for second-division vehicles. Establishing a class for first division vehicles and annual training refreshers, while decreasing the turnaround time for both permits.

## HB5471: Protect Illinois Communities Act

HB5471 effectively bans the sale and distribution of assault weapons, high-capacity magazines and switches in Illinois. In order to grandfather pre-existing gun owners into this ban, those who currently own such weapons are required to register these weapons with the Illinois State Police by January 1, 2024. Those looking for a FOID card between the ages of 18-20 must now have parental approval to do so unless they're an active member of the military or the National Guard.



## HB969: Budget Appropriations

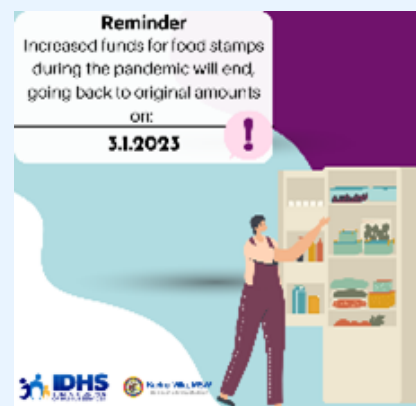


A supplemental budget bill totaling \$648.8 million was passed which included:

- \$90 million increase for Welcoming Centers to aid in supporting newly arrived families and individuals.
- \$50 million for COVID-19 response and mitigation.
- \$25 million to assist transitional services out of State Operated Mental Health Facilities to alternative community settings.
- \$74.2 million in ARPA funds were delegated to the Illinois Housing Authority, Homelessness Prevention Authorities, Opening Doors Program, and other agencies funded by the supportive housing services for recruitment and retention of their workforce.
- An additional \$12.5 million was delegated to community-based services that serve those with developmental disabilities.

## Increased Emergency SNAP Money Ends 3/1/2023

Under the direction of the Federal Government, SNAP benefits will decrease back to pre-pandemic levels. The end of the emergency increased SNAP benefits will result in a decrease of \$95-225 monthly per household, whereas the decrease is dependent on financial circumstances and household size. To prepare for this change, IDHS recommends that SNAP customers visit <https://abc.illinois.gov/> and update their account if there is a change in address, increase in housing costs, or decrease in income. This will ensure that SNAP customers are receiving the maximum benefit for which they are eligible. If you have any questions or are experiencing food insecurity call my office at (630)326-9319 or email [constituentservices@senatorvilla.com](mailto:constituentservices@senatorvilla.com).



To better acquaint ourselves with the needs of our new district, we encourage those within it to take our District Survey. My office has crafted this tool to hear from you regarding your views on the needs of the community you live in, as you serve as the expert on this experience. Our office will in turn use the feedback we receive to best formulate a plan linedated to your needs from the feedback we receive from you. You can access the full survey [Here!](#)



## Scholarship Opportunities:

- **Batavia Chamber of Commerce:** The Chamber has four \$1,000 scholarships available to Batavia High School Seniors. Each scholarship has a specific category and corresponding application with the categories being: inspiring entrepreneurship, inspiring women in business, inspiring career and technical achievers, and inspiring contributors to a Batavia Chamber business. For more information on how to apply contact Perreault at 630-879-7134 or email [info@bataviachamber.org](mailto:info@bataviachamber.org). The deadline to apply is 3/31/23.
- **Illinois Conservation Foundation:** The foundation annually awards scholarships to outstanding high school seniors in Illinois who demonstrate effective, voluntary, long-term dedication to the preservation, protection, or enhancement of the state's natural resources. Four scholarships of \$2,000 each are available for the current school year and the deadline to apply is 3/3/23. For more information about the scholarship and how to apply [Click Here!](#)

## Stay in Touch! Follow us on Social Media:



Facebook: [@StateSenatorKVilla](#)



Instagram: [@SenatorKarinaVilla](#)

Our office partners with State Representative Maura Hirschauer and co-runs four advisory committees: Environmental and Agriculture, Mental Health, Seniors, and Education. These committees are a limited public forum led by volunteer chairs and seek to create compassionate conversation among the voices of the 25th/49th districts in order to give effective representation. To join these committees you can email the following for more information and meeting information:

- Environment/ 4th Thursday at 7pm / [environment.49th@gmail.com](mailto:environment.49th@gmail.com)
- Mental Health / 3rd Tuesday at 6pm / [mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com](mailto:mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com)
- Seniors / 2nd Friday at 10am / [seniors.25th@gmail.com](mailto:seniors.25th@gmail.com)
- Education / 2nd Thursday at 7pm / [education.49th@gmail.com](mailto:education.49th@gmail.com)

My staff and I look forward to hearing from you. I encourage you to reach out to us at 630-326-9319 (English), 630-326-9419 (Spanish) or [constituentservices@senatorvilla.com](mailto:constituentservices@senatorvilla.com). Textline is (331)465-9690.

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW  
State Senator, 25th District