Karina Villa, MSW
Illinois State Senator of the 25th District

Newsletter

The Legislature is in Session: with Assignments, Surveys, and More!

Dear Friend,

It appears our fate of 6 more weeks of winter has been destined by the groundhog, however, we hope everyone's spirits remain high as we traverse the rest of the winter season. It is the home stretch after all.

Committee Assignment Announcements

It is my pleasure to announce the Committees I have been selected to serve on in the 103rd General Assembly. I look forward to using my expertise to weigh in on bills passing through these committees. My committees are as follows:
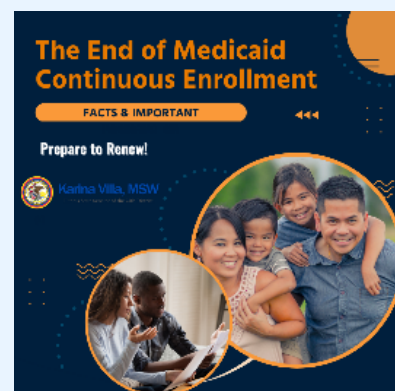
➢ Chairwoman of Public Health Committee, read more about my appointment here
➢ Health and Human Services Committee
➢ Behavioral and Mental Health Committee
➢ Appropriations Committee
➢ Agriculture Committee
➢ Human Rights Committee
➢ Special Committee on Pensions

Use Your Voice, Take Our District Survey!

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 of this experience. Our office will in turn use the feedback we receive to best formulate a plan tailored to your needs from the feedback we receive from you. You can access the full survey Here !

Medicaid Continuous Coverage Ending

The federal government has moved to end continuous coverage for those on Medicaid, which was inserted during the pandemic to ensure individuals and families were not losing coverage even if they were no longer eligible. Everyone on Medicaid will be getting notices that they need to renew their Medicaid insurance within the mail, and can also check online to see when they will need to resubmit their eligibility to the program by logging into their abe.illinois.gov account and going to "Manage My Case" to see when renewal is required. Renewals can be submitted online through this account, by mail or over the phone at 1-800-843-6154. Renewal notices will be mailed to your address the month before they are due to ensure continuous coverage. It is also suggested to make sure your address is current on your Medicaid account to ensure you will receive the letter and other updates regarding your status. More information is available here, and we encourage you to call our office at (630)326-9319 or email us at info@senatorvilla.com with any questions or concerns.

DCFS Scholarship

The DCFS Scholarship Application is now available, youth currently in DCFS care or that have aged out are eligible and have until March 31st, 2023 to apply. Applications can be submitted to DCFS.Scholarship@illinois.gov for consideration. The scholarship covers the full tuition at any community or state college in an effort to assist those that have been involved in the foster care system in obtaining a post-secondary degree. More information is available here and questions can be directed to the DCFS Office of Education and Transition Services at 217-557-2689 or DCFS.Scholarship@illinois.gov.

211 Cook County Launch!

Cook County has officially launched 211, which residents can call to be connected with community-based services. These services range from mental health resources, rental assistance, utility assistance, and more. Residents both within the city and suburban Cook County can both call in to be connected with resources local to them to benefit their current situation. All areas of our district including Cook, Kane, and DuPage can now call 211 for guidance in receiving and being connected to services.

Illinois Housing Development Authority: Opening Doors Program

The Illinois Housing Development Authority has opened its Opening Doors Program which provides $6,000 in down payment or closing cost assistance to those that apply. As long as the applicant remains in their home for 5 years as their primary residence the money does not have to be repaid and will subtract automatically through their years in the home. First-time home-buyers and minority populations who have had barriers in accessing housing will be prioritized but others can apply as well. For more information regarding the program and its eligibility requirements visit the Homebuyer Center .

Wayne Township Senior Center Open to Winfield Residents

Winfield Township Residents can now fully utilize the Wayne Township Senior Center through a partnership established between the townships. Transportation can be arranged through Winfield Townships busing program, and residents have full access to all activities provided within the center. Activities available include a variety of exercise classes, clubs, games, cards, darts, craft and volunteer opportunities and special events and trips. If you're a senior in Winfield Township make sure to check it out!

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
- Mental Health / 3rd Tuesday at 6pm / mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com
- Seniors / 2nd Friday at 10am / seniors.25th@gmail.com
- Education / 2nd Thursday at 7pm / 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. Textline is (331)465-9690.

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District