




Newsletter

Events and Intern Opportunity to Enjoy with Rising Temps

Dear Friend,

While I'm busy in session, my office is hard at work with some event offerings in this newsletter to help you best access your public assistance and know your rights. I've also worked to show some updates on what's happening in Springfield combined with a cool opportunity for high schoolers to explore urban planning and its impacts that shape our communities.

Legislative Update



Last week we had a deadline in the Senate to vote the majority of House bills out of the chamber by May 12. These are bills that have already passed in the House, so following our deadline to pass them out of the Senate, the final step is for them to be sent to the governor. Following is a list of all major House bills I sponsored and passed out of the Senate before the deadline:

❖ [HB1557](#): Requires concert and music venues to have opioid-overdose antidotes, such as naloxone, on hand and have staff members who are sufficiently trained in administering it.

❖ [HB1615](#): Provides the Nursing Workforce Center will develop strategies to ensure proper actions are being taken to address the statewide nurse shortages.

❖ [HB3116](#): Requires all school boards to conduct in-service training on homelessness for all school personnel.

❖ [HB3613](#): Allows school districts that provide special educational facilities for children with disabilities to maintain a supply of undesignated oxygen tanks.

I also passed [HB2365](#), which provides a clinical social worker with an alternative route to obtain a license, given they complete an additional 3,000 hours of supervision after having taken and not passed the Association of Social Work Boards license exam. This bill was an initiative of a group of concerned social workers along with the National Association of Social Workers after a study found test takers who are

minorities or older in age fail the licensure exam at dramatically higher rates than white test takers, indicating unfair bias on the exam. It now heads back to the house for amendment approval.

LGBTQ+ Safe and Affirming Mental Health Services Webinar

Join us on May 30th from 12-2pm to learn more about safe and affirming LGBTQ+ mental health services and on how to create safe and affirming spaces for the LGBTQIA+ community in the mental health service field. This zoom will be brought through a partnership with Youth Outlook and NAMI. Current trends regarding the community will also be covered. For this webinar registration is required in order to encourage an affirming space for all participants. Please register [here for the webinar](#).



Medicaid Redetermination Assistance Event



Are you on Medicaid, and unaware about the redetermination process? Redeterminations did not occur during the COVID-19 pandemic and coverage rolled over to ensure access to health insurance. Since the end of the public health emergency redeterminations are set to begin happening with notices currently starting to go out. Did you get a redetermination notice and need help filling it out? Join us on June 13th from 3-5 pm at West Chicago Public Library (118 W Washington St, West Chicago, IL, 60185) to learn more about the process, and book an appointment to get 1-on-1 assistance in filling your redetermination paperwork. To book a timeslot for 1-on-1 assistance by phone call (331)465-9690 or visit [our online registration here](#). If you have any questions regarding the redetermination process or have not yet received a notice but want more information, please call (630)326-9319.

Know Your Labor Rights

Our team is partnering with State Representative Hernandez, Chicago Workers Collaborative and Casa Michoacán (FEDECMI) to bring a Know Your Labor Rights event to you. Join us at the Aurora Santori Library (101 S River St, Aurora, IL, 60506) on June 16th from 2:30-4:30pm for a presentation on your rights as a worker such as, and following the presentation Q&A will be available with a bilingual workers rights lawyer. Questions can be answered on injuries, pay, and other rights you may have questions about. Light refreshments will be served. For any questions regarding the event please call us at (331)465-9690 or (630)326-9319.



West Chicago District Office



Our West Chicago District Office moved 2 doors down for a bigger space, you can now find us at 946 N Neltnor Blvd, Suite 104, West Chicago, IL, 60185. The phone number to reach us is still (630)326-9319 and the text line remains (331)465-9690. We encourage Spanish-Speakers to call (331)465-9690 or text to receive the best assistance from our office at this time. Our office opening party is soon to be announced with some exciting additions for a new member of our office. We already share spaces with State Representative Hirschauer, I wonder who the new addition will be? Stay posted on our office opening via our newsletter and social media for when details on the big opening are public. I can't wait to share this space with you.

State Senator Karina Villa District Offices ♦ 946 N. Neltnor Blvd., #108, West Chicago ♦ 1177 N Highland Ave Ste. 101 Aurora
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Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning (CMAP) High School Internship

The Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning Agency is searching for high school interns with a lot of perks offered to students for participating and knowledge and insight to be gained on urban planning and its importance to residents from housing, to the environment to public transportation. High schoolers from Kane, Dupage, Cook, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will counties are welcome to apply. Their FLIP (Future Leaders in Planning) program will have mandatory sessions from July 10th-14th from 10am-4pm at 433 W. Van Buren St., Chicago / their Central office. Participants will receive free transportation for their internship, and the program allows them to explore careers in urban planning, comes with a certificate of completion, added resume experience, a letter of recommendation and other perks. To find out more please [click here](#). Applications to the program are due by May 30th and the application can be found and completed [at this link](#).



Illinois Latino Caucus Scholarship Fund



The Illinois Latino Caucus Scholarship is open for applications until July 3rd, 2023 by 11:59pm, and is open to all Latinos who are pursuing a certificate, vocational, technical, undergraduate or graduate school are all eligible to apply. A total of 20 scholarships will be awarded of \$5,000 each. For more information and to apply [please 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
- 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 (331)465-9690 constituentservices@senatorvilla.com.

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District

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