




# Newsletter

## Legislative Updates and more!

My team and I have been gearing up for a busy November in the district and Springfield. The General Assembly just wrapped up its first week of Veto Session. Read on for more on Veto Session, updates and more!

### Medicare Workshops

Thank you to everyone who came out to our Medicare Workshops last week. I am glad my team and I were able to reach many constituents in the district to ensure that they are prepared for open enrollment and are equipped to make informed decisions about their care.

This year's enrollment period runs through Dec. 7. If you need assistance with enrollment or have any questions, contact my office at 630-326-9319 or 331-465-9690. To explore your Medicare coverage options, visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov).



### Toys for Tots

My office is participating in this year's Kane County Toys for Tots drive. Join us in bringing smiles this holiday season to children in the Kane County area. You can participate by donating unwrapped toys to my Aurora office, located at 1177 N. Highland Ave. Suite 101, now through Tuesday, Dec. 3. Happy Holidays!



### Legislative Updates

#### Illinois Psychological Association 2024 Legislator of the Year

I am incredibly honored to have been named Legislator of the Year by the Illinois Psychological Association. Expanding access to mental health treatment and advocating for policies that strengthen our mental health system across Illinois is more important than ever. I look forward to our continued partnership to support the mental health needs of our community and the state.



## Veto Session Week One Recap

Earlier this week, I was back in Springfield for our fall Veto Session, where we take a look at legislation not passed during regular session in the spring and have an opportunity to override any vetoes from the Governor. I met with many advocates on important issues including environmental protections, health care and education.



Students from my alma mater, Aurora University, came down to Springfield for a visit and I had a wonderful discussion with them about how they can be involved in public service.

I also had a wonderful time attending the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities Breakfast where I was honored for an initiative I led in the spring that increased wages for Direct Support Professionals. Afterwards, I was able to show support to our teachers and other workers at a rally focused on addressing issues with the Tier 2 pension system.



I am happy to announce that I was also able to pass my bill HB 5172 out of the Senate Executive Committee. This legislation would ensure interpretive assistance during substantive state administrative hearings for people whose first language is not English. The bill now moves to the Senate Chamber for further consideration from all members of the Senate.



## State and Local Resources

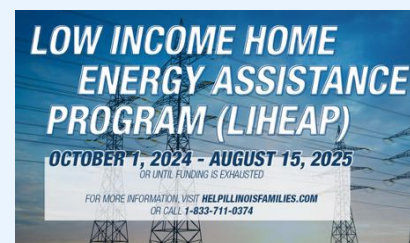
### State Marketplace Insurance Open for DACA Recipients

DACA recipients are now eligible to enroll in marketplace health insurance under the Affordable Care Act for the first time as open enrollment begins. DACA recipients will be able to enroll through Jan. 15. Apply for coverage at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). If you are a resident of DuPage County, you may be eligible to receive assistance with insurance payments through the DuPage Health Coalition's Silver Access ACA Premium Assistance Program. Check if you qualify by visiting their [website](#).



### LIHEAP Applications Now Open

Low Income Energy Assistance Program applications are now open! The program is now open to all income-eligible households. Find out if you're eligible and apply today by visiting [HelpIllinoisFamilies.com](https://www.helpillinoisfamilies.com).

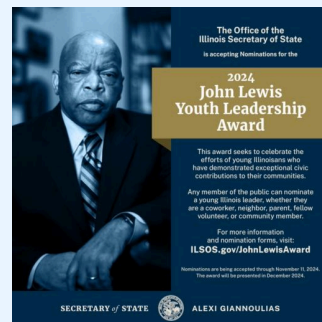


### COFI is Hiring!

Community Organizing and Family Services is hiring a Bilingual Community Organizer to serve in Kane County. COFI is an organizing center that supports parents living in underserved communities of color. To apply, visit their [website](#). Two years of experience as an organizer is preferred but not required. Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume and job application. To view the full job description, [click here](#).

## 2024 John Lewis Youth Leadership Award

The Illinois Secretary of State's office is accepting applications for the 2024 John Lewis Youth Leadership Award. The award honors young Illinoisans who have made exceptional contributions to their communities. Any member of the public can nominate a young Illinois leader aged 18-25, whether they are a student, coworker, neighbor, parent, fellow volunteer or community member. Interested applicants or nominators can access the application at [www.ilsos.gov/JohnLewisAward](http://www.ilsos.gov/JohnLewisAward). The deadline to submit has been extended to Monday, Nov. 18.



## Help Stop Hate

Illinois has launched Help Stop Hate, a service that provides support and resources to people affected by hate. Reports can be made anonymously by calling (877) 458-4283, or (877) 458-HATE, Monday to Friday from 12-9 PM or online at any time by visiting [ILStopHate.org](http://ILStopHate.org). For individuals who want to report a hate crime to law enforcement immediately or who are in imminent danger, please call 911. For more information on Help Stop Hate, please visit [ILStopHate.org](http://ILStopHate.org).



Our office 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 in order to provide effective representation. To join these committees you

- can email the following for more information and meeting information:
- Environment/ 1st Wednesday at 7pm / [environment.25th@gmail.com](mailto:environment.25th@gmail.com)
  - Mental Health / 3rd Tuesday at 6pm / [mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com](mailto:mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com)
  - Seniors / 2nd Thursday at 10am / [seniors.25th@gmail.com](mailto:seniors.25th@gmail.com)
  - Education / 2nd Thursday at 7pm / [education.25th@gmail.com](mailto:education.25th@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](mailto:constituentservices@senatorvilla.com).

Stay in Touch! Follow us on Social Media: [Facebook: @StateSenatorKVilla](https://www.facebook.com/StateSenatorKVilla), [Instagram: @SenatorKarinaVilla](https://www.instagram.com/SenatorKarinaVilla), [LinkedIn: Karina Villa](https://www.linkedin.com/company/KarinaVilla), [TikTok: @StateSenatorKarinaVilla](https://www.tiktok.com/@StateSenatorKarinaVilla)

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW  
State Senator, 25th District