



### Important Resources and Updates!

Happy Thanksgiving! I am forever thankful for the opportunity to serve this community and for the support from the people of the 25th District. I wish you and your loved ones a joy filled holiday season! As November comes to a close, I would like to share with you important legislative updates and resources that I hope will be useful!

#### Legislative Updates

##### Veto Session Week Two Recap

The second week of Veto Session was eventful. I had a great time connecting with advocates and working to pass pieces of legislation before the end of the year with my colleagues.



I had the pleasure of meeting with the Muslim Civic Coalition during their advocacy day. I was also happy to bring them to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, which I serve on, to learn about bills that the Senate was considering the week of veto.

Big news! I am pleased to share that my bill, HB 5172, passed the Senate and is one step closer to becoming law! This legislation, that would ensure interpretive assistance during substantive administrative hearings held by state agencies, now moves to the governor for further consideration.



I want to give a special thank you to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund for their advocacy that secured the passage of this legislation after three years worth of hard work. I look forward to returning in Jan. to continue doing the work to support our communities!

## Family Focus Winter Hat and Glove Drive

Help us make a difference this winter and keep our community warm by participating in our Winter Hat and Glove Drive! My Aurora office is partnering with Family Focus' Teen Success Program to collect hats and gloves that will be donated to people in our community.

Donations are currently being accepted at my office, located at 1177 N. Highland Ave. Suite 101, until Dec. 13.



## Toys for Tots

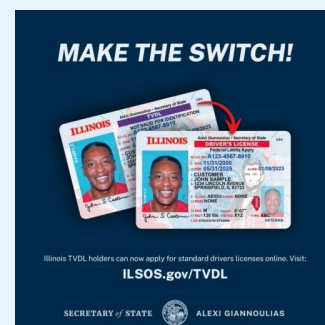
My office is participating in this year's Kane County Toys for Tots drive. Join us in bringing smiles this holiday season to children in the Kane County area. You can participate by donating unwrapped toys to my Aurora office, located at 1177 N. Highland Ave. Suite 101, now through Tuesday, Dec. 3. Happy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



## Issue Your Driver's License Today!

Immigrants who are Temporary Visitor Driver's License (TVDL) holders or who have been an Illinois resident for longer than a year are eligible for a standard driver's license. If you currently have an unexpired TVDL that is within 60 days of expiration, you can apply online to replace your TVDL with a standard license. Visit [TVDL Replacement Card Application \(ilsos.gov\)](#) to apply. First-time applicants must visit a DMV and meet the criteria to issue a license. Review the first time issuance checklist [here](#). If you have any questions, reach out to our office at 630-326-9319 or

331-465-9690.



## State and Local Resources

### Teen Success Program Applications are Open!

Family Focus is accepting applications for their Teen Success Program. The 16-week program is offered to high school students, ages 16-18, which runs from Jan. to May. The program will help students develop their professional skills while supporting their community and connecting with valuable resources.



Here is what a former Youth Worker has to say about the program:

***The Teen Success Program has enabled our group to develop numerous skills, not only in a professional environment but also within our community. We work on various tasks around the office such as demographic data entry, scanning DACA files, and coordinating directly with our participants at the front desk. We apply our skills while volunteering at other non-profits, like Feeding My Starving Children, and working at our citizenship workshop that was recently held at the Family Focus Aurora- Kapur Center. There, we assisted attendees in translating and completing the necessary paperwork to ease them through the naturalization process. Together we are also able to budget, plan, and handcraft the necessary material for local families to partake in seasonal festivities, such as our recent Trunk-or-Treat. This program has given us the opportunity to obtain valuable experience which will pave our future***



success, while still making an impact in the office and community, which we greatly appreciate and will cherish going forward with our careers.

The program requires students to work 10 hours per week at \$16 per hour, Monday through Friday. Send resumes to [liliana.cepeda@family-focus.org](mailto:liliana.cepeda@family-focus.org). For more information, call 630-256-7003.

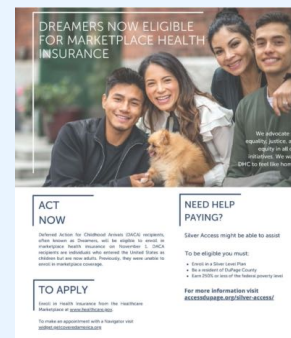
## Youth Art Month 2025

The Illinois Art Education Association is holding its annual Youth Art Month competition! K-12 students can participate by submitting 2D artwork at [ilaea.org/yam](http://ilaea.org/yam) for a chance to win Blick art supplies.



## 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](http://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](http://HelpIllinoisFamilies.com).



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/in/KarinaVilla), [TikTok: @StateSenatorKarinaVilla](https://www.tiktok.com/@StateSenatorKarinaVilla)

Be well!

A handwritten signature of Karina Villa in black ink.

Karina Villa, MSW  
State Senator, 25th District