



Highlights from Springfield & the 25th District

Spring is here and things are ramping up! Read below for information on recent updates, grant opportunities and more. As always, if you are in need, contact my office at 630-326-9319 or 331-465-9690.

Legislative Updates

Session has been busy down in Springfield. Last week, I advocated for insurance parity for mental health and substance use treatment at a press conference alongside my colleagues and service providers. Individuals paying costly monthly insurance premiums should be able to access the treatment outlined within their benefits. It is up to insurance companies to properly compensate providers for their work. View my remarks [here](#).



Last week, I was also able to present SB 1238, the Non-Opioid Alternative Act, during a subject matter hearing. This initiative would prohibit health insurance providers from denying coverage for non-opioid prescriptions in favor of an opioid prescription drug. The measure also prohibits step-therapy, which requires a patient to first try an opioid prescription drug before approving coverage of a non-opioid. Track movement on the bill [here](#) or check my social media for updates!

I would like to give a special shoutout to my Aurora office intern, Jorja, for joining me down in Springfield as my page for a day to experience session first hand. If you are interested in learning opportunities like these, consider applying to our 2025-2026 College Internship Program. More info down below!



ILLCF Latina Heritage Day Brunch

I am grateful to celebrate Women's History Month and International Women's Day surrounded by strong women who I admire and am inspired by. This year's Latina Heritage Day celebration highlighted the influence Latinas have in various sectors across our state, with the theme, Soy Influyente!

Our strength, influence and resilience will carry us forward—no matter the challenge. Thank you to our amazing panelists and attendees for making this event even so special.



In the District

A special thank you to Immigration Attorney, Rocio Bercerril, for taking the time to provide the West Chicago Community with critical information at a Know Your Rights event earlier this week. Understanding our rights is critical to ensuring our communities are safe. A big thank you to our partners, the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee in West Chicago, [Congresswoman Delia Ramirez](#), [State Representative Maura Hirschauer](#) and [Despertar Latino!](#)



On Wednesday, I had the pleasure of visiting fifth graders at North Elementary School! I spoke to them about my journey becoming a legislator and the importance of civic engagement. I was delighted to build excitement for their upcoming trip to Springfield in May!

Last weekend, I was proud to stand alongside champions from the Federal, State and Local level at a press conference to oppose the proposed federal budget, which would hurt thousands of working families across the 25th District and our state who rely on essential programs such as Medicaid.



Accepting College Internship Applications!

We are still accepting applications for our 2025-2026 College Internship Program. If you are a college student passionate about social justice and want to serve the constituents of the 25th Senate District and gain valuable experience in public service, email us your resume and cover letter at karinavilla.office@gmail.com! The internship is open to BSW and MSW candidates. For more information and important dates, call 630-326-9319.



State and Local Resources

COVID Tests & Narcan Available for Pick Up

Visit our Aurora office to pick up free COVID tests and Narcan provided by the [Kane County Health Department](#). We are open on Monday and Wednesday through Friday from 9:00am to 7:00pm at 1177 N Highland Ave. Suite 101 Aurora, IL 60506.



DCFS offers scholarships to youth in care

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is accepting applications for the 2025 DCFS Scholarship Program. More than 50 academic scholarships will be awarded to current and former youth in care for the upcoming school year. Scholarship recipients will receive up to five consecutive years of tuition and academic fee waivers to be used at participating Illinois community colleges and public universities. Youth who are at least 16 years old by the March 31 deadline should [apply here](#).

Infrastructure Grant Funding for Small Businesses

Small, locally owned businesses in historically underrepresented areas and businesses with fewer than 10 employees should apply by April 7 for up to \$245,000 in grant funding from the Office of Economic Equity and Empowerment's Small Business Capital and Infrastructure Grant Program. Eligible small businesses can find additional information, webinars and application materials on the [DCEO website](#).

Smoke Alarm Installation

West Chicago Residents, sign up for a FREE smoke alarm installation on Saturday, March 29th! Complete this [form](#) to register.



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
- Mental Health / 3rd Tuesday at 6pm / mentalhealth.25th@gmail.com
- Seniors / 2nd Thursday at 10am / seniors.25th@gmail.com
- Education / 2nd Thursday at 7pm / 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.

Stay in Touch! Follow us on Social Media: [Facebook: @StateSenatorKVilla](#), [Instagram: @SenatorKarinaVilla](#), [LinkedIn: Karina Villa](#), [TikTok: @StateSenatorKarinaVilla](#)

Be well!

Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District