



In the last few weeks we have welcomed several guests to the Capitol also known as The People's House in Springfield including Purepecha women and residents of Taufkirchen Germany which is a Sister City of West Chicago. We also have welcomed a few unwanted guests in Springfield as the cicadas have begun to emerge in Central Illinois!

Latino Unity Day Honoring the Rebozo

For Latino Unity Day this year I introduced a resolution to honor the Rebozo and acknowledge May 8th 2024 as the Day of the Rebozo. The rebozo is a garment traditionally worn in Mexico to resemble the strength, resilience, and loving nature of Mexican women. I was delighted to bring a group of Purépecha women to Springfield to join me for Latino Unity and the presentation of the Rebozo resolution. You can read the resolution [here](#).



Work Permit Resolution

I am honored to sponsor [HJR69](#) with Leader Lisa Hernandez to urge President Biden to issue work permits to long term undocumented workers. Currently, there are 400,000 undocumented workers living in the State of Illinois. Undocumented workers in Illinois have been at the forefront of key industries, including manufacturing, health care, and agriculture. They make up one sixth of our state's labor force and have nearly \$55 billion in spending power.



German Sister City Exchange

I was honored to welcome residents from Taufkirchen Germany and West Chicago with Sister Cities International to Springfield this week for the 25th Anniversary of their partnership. Representative Hirschauer was able to honor the anniversary with [House Resolution 781](#) that the group was able to hear while watching the House in Session. I was also honored to join the Sister Cities group for a picture with Governor JB Pritzker before they headed off to the Abraham Lincoln Museum and Library.



Project Safe Aurora Event

Our office was honored to join the Kane County Health Department and Project Safe Aurora Coalition on practical approaches to ending gun violence. Panelists from the Aurora community brought a wealth of knowledge and real-life wisdom to the table, igniting crucial conversations and paving the way for positive change. Project Safe Aurora is a diverse mix of organizations, nonprofits, and government agencies, all dedicated to addressing and preventing gun violence. You can read more about the work of Project Safe Aurora [here](#).

State & Local Resources

Governor's Hometown Awards Program

The Governor's Hometown Awards (GHATA) program gives formal recognition to those who contributed to projects that improved their community's quality of life from the period of January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. The due date for applications is June 14, at 5pm CST. Interested townships, villages, cities, and counties can apply. They must show that the project being nominated was sponsored by a local unit of government, had strong volunteer support, met a need, and made a definitive impact, thereby generating a positive outcome in the community and by extension, the state. To apply for the award, head to the application link: <https://forms.office.com/g/RWWcYgzF3B>

Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation Scholarship

It's that time of year again! Apply to the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus Foundation scholarship that awards 20 Latino scholars with \$5,000 that can be applied to a student's certificate, undergraduate, and/or graduate program! For details on requirement guidelines, please visit:

<https://www.illcfoundation.org/scholarship-program/application>

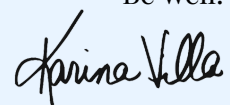
Our office runs four advisory committees: Environmental and Agriculture, Mental Health, Seniors, and Education. These committees are a limited public forum led by volunteer chairs and seek to create compassionate conversation among the voices of the 25th in order to provide effective representation. 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

Be well!



Karina Villa, MSW
State Senator, 25th District