Federal Policy Priorities - Legislative and Administrative

1) Affordable Care Act & Medicaid - Prevent the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), prevent disastrous changes to Medicaid, and protect and expand access to comprehensive, quality, and affordable health care for all.
   a) Oppose the American Health Care Act (AHCA); the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA); the ObamaCare Repeal Reconciliation Act (ORRA); the Health Care Freedom Act (AKA "Skinny Repeal"); and any other congressional effort to repeal or undermine the ACA and/or Medicaid.

   b) Oppose actions by the Trump Administration to roll-back coverage, benefits, affordability or consumer protections within the ACA and Medicaid including but not limited to: Ending Cost-Sharing Reductions (CSRs), Navigator funding, and/or Education and Marketing funding; Encouraging states to apply for Medicaid waivers in order to mandate work requirements, additional consumer cost-sharing requirements, or other additional administrative burdens on Medicaid recipients.

   c) Support efforts to extend funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) by September 30, 2017 without offsets to other programs such as the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF).

2) Reproductive Health - Support efforts to protect access to comprehensive, quality and affordable family planning services, including abortion, regardless of insurance status.

3) Healthy Pregnancies and Infants - Support policies, programs, and funding that promote healthy pregnancies and infants, which include but are not limited to Title V (Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant), Healthy Start, Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Title X (comprehensive family planning services).

4) Vaccines - Support efforts to protect 317 federal funding which supplies vaccines to Federally Qualified Health Centers and Local Public Health Departments for children and adults who are underinsured and uninsured and provides funding for community based education.

5) School-Based Health Centers - Support policies that promote, protect and advance access to comprehensive, quality, affordable and confidential health services for adolescents, including school-based health centers and the Hallways to Health Act.

6) Food & Nutrition Programs - Support policies that protect and improve access to government food and nutrition programs including, but not limited to, Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), free and reduced meals for students, alternative school breakfast programs, and summer feeding programs.
State Policy Priorities - Legislative and Administrative

1) Women, Infant and Children's Health - Advocate for policy and system changes that positively impact women, infant, and children's health.
   a) Support policies, programs, and funding that promote healthy pregnancies and infants, which include but are not limited infant mortality reduction and breastfeeding promotion.
      i) Support SB3503: Require courthouses to make a lactation room or area available for pumping and ensures that nursing parents have access to a clean, private space in all Illinois state trial courthouses. The or area must be equipped with a chair, a table, and an outlet – as most breast pumps require a power source.
   b) Advocate for WIC administrative policy and system changes that reduce barriers, increase participation, and ensure the program meets consumers' needs.
   c) Support policies that aim to reduce health disparities - including racial, ethnic, and geographic disparities - in women and children.
      i) Support SB2442 SA1/HB4392: Provides that if a patient's mammogram demonstrates dense breast tissue, the Department of Public Health shall require every provider of mammography services to include this information and its impact on the mammogram in any notice or summary report sent to the patient.
   d) Support the work of the state's Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Advisory Committee. Established in 2015, the Committee is charged with advising and assisting the Department of Public Health to improve the outcomes of pregnancies with respect to NAS.
   e) Protect, support, and advocate for a range of comprehensive benefits for women, including a full range of reproductive health services in all forms of health insurance coverage. This includes ensuring health plans have robust coverage for reproductive services and mitigate barriers to care through implementation of P.A. 99-0672 (HB5576 - the Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act).
   f) Support policies and programs that address the mental health needs, including maternal and postpartum depression, of pregnant and parenting women.

2) Adolescent Health - Support policies that promote, protect and advance access to comprehensive, quality, affordable and confidential health services for adolescents, including school-based health centers.
   a) Support HR841: Recognizes February 2018 as ”School-Based Health Center Awareness Month” and encourages all Illinoisans to join in this observance.
   b) Advocate for the full integration of school-based health centers (SBHCs) into all financial models, including Medicaid Managed Care.
   c) Advocate for policy solutions that enable the sustainable integration of behavioral health services in SBHCs, including Rule 132 and Rule 140 reform efforts.
   d) Support implementation efforts of P.A. 100-0196 (HB3709 - Removing Barriers to Counseling Services for At-Risk Youth).

3) Healthy Children, Adolescents, Women and Families - Advocate for policies that foster vibrant communities and promote the health of children, adolescents, women and families.
   a) Advocate for a fully-funded, balanced, and responsible state budget with the appropriate revenue needed to meet the needs of Illinois children, adolescents, women and families.
      i) Support the restoration of funding to, at minimum, fiscal year 2015 (FY15) levels for the Illinois school-based health centers (SBHCs) grant program.
      ii) Support the restoration of funding to, at minimum, FY15 levels for Infant Mortality Reduction programs.
   b) Support a fair tax structure for Illinois to require those who earn more income to pay a higher rate and those who have a lower income to pay a lower tax rate.
   c) Support efforts to raise the minimum legal sales age of tobacco products from 18 to 21.
      i) Support HB4297/SB2332: Tobacco 21 - Raises the age to buy cigarettes and other tobacco products from 18 years to 21.
   d) Support efforts to restore the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance levels to, at minimum, 1996 levels when adjusted for inflation. TANF provides financial assistance to needy children and their families.
      i) Support HB5135/SB3115: Increases TANF grant amounts to 30% of federal poverty guidelines beginning October 1, 2018; 40% of federal poverty guidelines beginning October 1, 2019; and 50% of federal poverty guidelines beginning October 1, 2020. Provides that beginning October 1, 2021, and each October 1 thereafter, TANF grant amounts shall be annually adjusted to remain equal to 50% of the most recent federal poverty guidelines for each family size.
   e) Support efforts to ensure that the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) Program and Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver are implemented in ways that do not add barriers and work to meet the needs of Illinois SNAP recipients.

4) Affordable Care Act & Medicaid - Defend against legislative or administrative (e.g. through waivers or other means) efforts to reduce, limit, or weaken funding, eligibility, or services in the Medicaid program or the Affordable Care Act.
   a) Support HB4165 HA1: Require the General Assembly to approve any waivers proposed by the state that would affect coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), State Employee Group Health Insurance, and Medicaid. Ensures that any attempt to restrict access to healthcare is open to public debate, oversight and scrutiny.
   b) Support efforts to stabilize the IL health insurance marketplace, including but not limited to, proposals that protect or increase consumer eligibility and benefits as well as strengthen consumer protections in Illinois' statutes.

5) Medicaid Managed Care - Advocate for transparent, accurate, and up-to-date information on networks, coverage, and cost-sharing in Medicaid Managed Care Plans.
   a) Support the implementation of P.A. 99-0725 (HB6213 - Empowering Meaningful Patient Choice in Medicaid Managed Care).

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b) Support the implementation of **P.A. 99-0086 (HB2731 - Medicaid Managed Care Transparency Act)**.

6) **Medicaid Redeterminations** - Advocate for an effective and consumer focused system for managing enrollment and redetermination/renewal in Medicaid and other public benefits.
   a) Support efforts to fully implement the Integrated Eligibility System Phase II and problem-solve consumer issues related to the set-up and use of the **Manage My Case** Medicaid consumer information portal.

7) **Vaccines** - Monitor vaccine policies & legislation introduced and/or implemented, and weigh-in as appropriate.
   
   b) Support policies and legislation that increase the number of hospital and healthcare professionals vaccinated in these settings.
      i) Support **HB2984 SA1**: Strengthens existing state statute concerning annual flu vaccinations for Illinois healthcare employees by specifying that “general philosophical or moral reluctance” are not acceptable reasons to seek an exemption.
   
   c) Support efforts to increase awareness of and educate on the safety and importance of timely vaccinations.
      i) Support **SB2866 SFA3**: Amends the Communicable Disease Prevention Act by requiring the Illinois Department of Public Health and local schools provide information to students entering sixth grade and their parents about the life-saving Human Papillomavirus (HPV) cancer prevention vaccine.
      
      ii) Support **HB4475/SB2654**: Requires the school board of a school district to include information about influenza and influenza vaccinations in accordance with the latest recommendations when it provides information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to the parents or guardians of students.