It was a reasonably quiet week in Springfield and DC...

- **Illinois Senate Bill 2659 Amendment #1**: This bill prohibits the driver of a motor vehicle from smoking while a minor is in the vehicle or be subject to a $100 fine
  - **Background**: This bill aims to reduce children's exposure to second hand smoke while sitting in a confined area with an adult smoker
  - **Position**: Support → This bill passed the senate public health committee with an amendment excluding motorcycles and convertible cars
  - **Action**: EverThrive IL supports the passage of this bill

- **Federal Senate Bill 942**: Upon passage of this federal bill, employers would be required to make reasonable accommodations for pregnant employees or those who have conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth
  - **Background**: These minimally disruptive accommodations can greatly improve the health of the woman and their birth outcomes at little to no cost to the employer. The accommodations are as simple as providing a chair, bathroom breaks, and limiting the amount of weight they can carry, push, or pull
  - **Position**: Support → This bill has been introduced but no action taken
  - **Action**: EverThrive IL has been working with other local and national organizations to get Illinois Senator Mark Kirk to co-sponsor this bill. We have asked other advocacy organizations to sign onto a letter to Kirk and have distributed a letter to several prenatal care providers to. Contact Annie Boesen to sign on to this letter as either a physician or organization

- **Illinois Medicaid 1115 Waiver**: Illinois is launching an effort to develop a Path to Transformation Medicaid Waiver under the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services waiver authority, Section 1115 of the Social Security Act
  - **Background**: Section 1115 gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that promote the objectives of the Medicaid and CHIP programs and that differ from federal program rules. The purpose of these demonstrations, which give states additional flexibility to design and improve their programs, is to demonstrate and evaluate policy approaches such as:
    - Expanding eligibility to individuals who are not otherwise Medicaid or CHIP eligible
    - Providing services not typically covered by Medicaid such as supportive housing
    - Using innovative service delivery systems that improve care, increase efficiency, and reduce costs
  - **Position**: EverThrive IL supports the waiver but provided comments to the state which included a request that the HFS and the State of Illinois remain transparent during the planning and implementation periods of the waiver. EverThrive IL would like to ensure that Maternal and Child Health Programs are included by developing an MCH section in the 1115 Waiver. We also ask that the School Based Health Centers remain a direct access provider and call on Medicaid to restore adult dental services fully which were cut through the SMART Act. Comments from EverThrive IL will be posted on the State of Illinois website on the 1115 Waiver page
  - **Action**: EverThrive IL has written and submitted several sets of comments throughout the period of review and testimony on the Waiver and continues to be a part of all discussions about the 1115 Waiver

*The General Assembly is on break until after the primary election March 18. Committee hearings will resume March 19-21.*