



Governor Pritzker Cements Mental Health and Addiction Care with Gold-Standard Mental Health Bill

SPRINGFIELD, IL., August 25, 2021— [Health is Health](#), a campaign advocating for commonsense mental health and addiction care, celebrated the signing of HB2595 into law by Governor Pritzker. HB2595 advances access and equity in mental health care which will save lives.

“HB2595 becoming law is a vital step toward ensuring the well-being of Illinoisans around the state who struggle with mental health challenges,” said Illinois State Senator Laura Fine, chief sponsor of the new legislation in the Illinois State Senate. “Moving forward, accessing and affording care will be within reach of thousands in need.”

“Our communities are facing a mental health and addiction crisis that is only worsening,” said Illinois State Representative Deb Conroy, chief sponsor in the Illinois State House. “This legislation will increase access to mental health treatment, giving people with mental health and substance use disorders the ability to access treatment sooner and get on the road to recovery.”

Large inequities have long existed in how health plans covered mental health care. Many insurers used flawed and discriminatory guidelines to avoid paying for the mental health care and treatment services granted under existing federal law. HB2595 will change that by requiring health plans to cover medically necessary mental health and addiction care, ensuring that individuals and families get the care they need and is their right.

“Today, Illinois takes a critical step forward toward ending discrimination against people with mental health and substance use disorders—making the promise of equal access to treatment a reality,” said former U.S. Rep. and founder of The Kennedy Forum, Patrick J. Kennedy. “With his signature, Governor Pritzker makes Illinois a national leader in holding insurers accountable for following nationally recognized clinical standards of care.”

“Enacting HB2595 is a huge step forward. Every community and neighborhood in the country is suffering from the mental health crisis. Governor Pritzker, Representative Conroy, and Senator Fine are true leaders working to make mental health care more accessible.” said Bill Smith, Founder of [Inseparable](#), a Health is Health member. “We hope that this can be a catalyst for other states looking to stop the mental health crisis.”

[Backed by more than 75 organizations](#), Health is Health is a coalition of leaders from every corner of Illinois.



This new law:

- Establishes clear definitions and standards for when services and treatment qualify as medically necessary.
- Requires insurers to rely on transparent criteria published by non-profit clinical societies for mental disorder medical necessity determinations.
- Requires insurers to cover all medically necessary mental health and substance use disorder care and explicitly prohibits limiting benefits to short-term, acute treatment or refusing to cover whole levels of care.
- Encourages compliance with Illinois' parity law by making sure illegal practices are appropriately penalized.

Supporting Organizations

AIDS Foundation Chicago • American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Illinois Chapter • Augustyn Family Services, Inc. • Blooming Life Institute • Chasing Hope Foundation • Chicago Urban League • Coalition of Illinois Counselor Organizations • Community Behavioral Healthcare Association (CBHA) • Davis Mental Health Group • Deborah's Place • Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) • Drug Users Health Collective of Chicago • Duney's Defense • Ecker Center for Behavioral Health • Equality Illinois • Family Support Services • GROW in Illinois • Habilitative Systems, Inc. • Head/Heart Therapy • Healthcare Alternative Systems • Health & Medicine Policy Research Group • Heartland Alliance • Hope for the Day • Illinois Affiliation of Marriage and Family Therapists (IAMFT) • Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) • Illinois Association for Behavioral Health (IABH) • Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) • Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) • Illinois Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry • Illinois Counseling Association • Illinois Health & Hospital Association (IHA) • Illinois Mental Health Counselors Association • Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA) • Illinois Psychiatric Society • Illinois Psychological Association • Illinois State Medical Society • Inseparable • Legal Council for Health Justice • League of Women Voters • Live4Lali • MADO Healthcare • Memorial Behavioral Health • Mental Health America of Illinois • Mental Health America of the North Shore • Mental Health Summit • Midwest Asian Health Summit • MN Therapies • NAMI Barrington Area • NAMI Chicago • NAMI Cook County North Suburban • NAMI Greater Mississippi Valley • NAMI Illinois • NAMI Kane County North • NAMI Kane-South, Dekalb, and Kendall Counties (KDK) • NAMI Lake County Illinois • NAMI of McHenry County • NAMI Metro Suburban • NAMI Northern Illinois • NAMI Northwest Suburban • NAMI of Southwestern Illinois • NAMI Sauk Area • NAMI Schaumburg Area • NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago • NAMI Tri-County Illinois • NAMI Will-Gundy • National Association of Social Workers (NASW) - IL • Prevention Partnership, Inc. • Psychotherapy Action Network • Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism • Rosecrance • Shriver Center on Poverty Law • Supportive Housing Providers Association • The Josselyn Center • The Kennedy Forum Illinois •

health health

**mental health care
everyone can agree on**

The Porchlight Collective, SAP • Thresholds • Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC) • United Congregations of Metro East • West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force Prevention Partnership, Inc. • Well Being Trust • Wildflower Center for Emotional Health

###