



Support HB 899

Invest in patient-centered home health services for Medicaid beneficiaries.

The members of the Illinois HomeCare Council urge you to SUPPORT HB 899.

HB 899 proposes a phased-in fix to the Medicaid home health reimbursement rate. The rate would be bumped from \$61.34 per visit to \$70.00 per visit in the first year of implementation and to \$80.00 per visit in the second year and beyond.

- Home health services reimbursed by Medicaid are medical in nature and assist in keeping the diverse beneficiary population **independent** and out of costly institutions. Clients and their families enjoy peace of mind thanks to this efficient care provided by licensed agencies.
- Access to home health care for Medicaid beneficiaries is declining because agencies recoup less than 50% of their real costs per visit.
- Medicaid home health provider payments have not been adjusted since 2002, when the rate **decreased** 5.9%.
- The actual fiscal impact of this fix is estimated to be less than \$1 million in the first year and \$2 million in the out years because of the 50% Federal match.

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Talking Points on D.C. Smoking Ban Legislation

As approved by D.C. Council, 12/06/2005

- Comprehensive smoking ban in all restaurants, bars, and clubs by January 1, 2007.
- Immediate ban on smoking in most places of employment and enclosed public places including restaurant dining areas.
- Restaurant bars, stand-alone bars, and clubs will be subject to the smoking ban on January 1, 2007.
- Smoking will be allowed in cigar bars, outdoor dining areas, outdoor nightclub/tavern/bar patios, hotel rooms, retail tobacco outlets, and certain medical treatment or research institutions even after January 1, 2007.
- Waivers may be granted to bars, clubs, and restaurants after demonstrating a significant negative impact to their business. Waiver requirements are stricter than New York City, which provides the model for such exemptions.
- All restaurants, bars, and clubs established after January 1, 2007 will be smoke-free.
- Estimated effective date: April 2006.

(Bill 16-293, the “Department of Health Functions Clarification Amendment Act of 2005”)