



8th Annual

Illinois MUSLIM ACTION! Day

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago (CIOGC) 2016 Legislative Agenda

1. Addressing the budget crisis and supporting sustainable solutions

- *What is the problem?* The budget is undermining our vulnerable populations in Illinois. This is taking a toll on our community and affecting our social services. Working families, children, seniors, students, veterans, law enforcement officials, and people with disabilities are going without vital services they need. All our communities are hurting. We need you, our state leaders, to acknowledge the harm the budget impasse is causing and agree on a path forward for fixing it.
- *What does our community contribute?* Statistics show that the Muslim community of Illinois is amongst the most highly educated and cited as one of the most successful minorities. This translates to the Muslim community contribution of about 10% of Illinois tax revenue.
- *What is our analysis and how do we compare to other states?* Illinois' so-called "flat" income tax isn't actually flat—and it certainly isn't fair. It's behind the times. The federal government and 34 other states, including most of Illinois' neighbors, tax income at different rates based on people's ability to pay. We want to address this issue with a sustainable solution: by supporting a fairer tax system.
- *Who else is working on this issue?* Responsible Budget Coalition and Citizen Action Illinois 'A Better Illinois' Campaign

ASK:

- 1) We urge you to put pressure on the Governor on our behalf to pass the budget. Our communities are hurting. Too many are going without vital services and this is not acceptable.
- 2) Support HR922, the Responsible Budget Resolution.

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2. Extending the ALL KIDS Act & Protecting our Kids

- *What is the problem?* The Covering ALL KIDS Act, which provides health insurance to over 52,000 low-income Illinois children must be reauthorized before July 1, 2016 in order The Covering ALL KIDS Act provides comprehensive, affordable health insurance to all undocumented children and children whose family income is less than \$75,840 for a family of four.
- *What does our community contribute?* Our community is partnering with other faith-based organizations to bring this issue to the forefront. **CIOGC has worked in prior years to pass the Affordable Care Act (more info from Rita coming soon)**
- *What is our analysis?* Illinois children have one of the lowest uninsured rates in the nation – just 33% - primarily due to the availability of the All Kids Program. In FY 2014, over 1.9 million children in Illinois were enrolled in the larger All Kids Health Insurance program. Children enrolled in The Covering ALL KIDS Act comprise of All Kids enrollees. Nationally, children zero to five constitute 19 percent of Medicaid enrollees, however they only account for 8 percent of Medicaid spending. In Illinois, children zero to eighteen comprise 57 percent of the overall Medicaid program but account for just 26 percent of the total cost. Covering All Kids Act, as part of the larger All Kids program, is a proven program with a history of bipartisan support that provides children with the health care they need to stay healthy and succeed. Help our children thrive.
- *Who else is working on this issue?* Healthy Illinois

ASK:

- 1) Vote Yes on HB5736, which would amend the ALL KIDS Health Insurance Act (a program proven to be successful) to extend the sunset provision until October 1, 2019.

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3. Removing the 'Invisible Bars' on Parolees in Our Community and Helping Our State Save Millions

- *What is the problem?* In fiscal year 2014 over 11,000 parolees were returned to prison, 8295 were from technical violations alone, at a cost to the state of over \$185 million. Thousands of formerly incarcerated individuals in Illinois return to neighborhoods within five zip codes in Cook County. This bill offers them the opportunity to access and contribute to programs in their neighborhoods, ultimately providing them the path to become assets for their communities, not liabilities.
- *What does our community contribute?* Our prized member organized, the 'Inner-city Muslim Action Network' works diligently with the incarcerated community day in and day out. This affects the work they are doing to rehabilitate previously incarcerated individuals. Their Executive Director, Dr. Rami Nashashibi, was recently recognized by President Obama.
- *What is our analysis?* Many individuals returning home from prison run the risk of re-incarceration by associating with other parolees. Parolees who associate with other parolees without prior written permission from their parole agents are considered to be in direct violation of conditions of parole, mandatory supervised release, or aftercare release. Activities related to community programs, worship services, volunteering, and engaging families are not exempt from these violations, penalizing thousands of individuals attempting to provide invaluable service to their communities.
- *Who else is working on this issue?* Inner-city Muslim Action Network (IMAN)

ASK:

- 1) Vote yes for SB 2282, which amends a condition of parole that would otherwise re-incarcerate a parolee for preforming community work, limits technical violations to serious conditions such as committing new crimes, saving the state millions of dollars.

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4. Supporting Illinois Promotes Unity & Peace by Taking on Hate RESOLUTION

- *What is the problem?* We recognize that bigotry and hate towards African Americans, Latinos, Arabs, American Sikhs and American Muslims as well as other communities of color are getting worse; and positive attitudes towards these groups as well as other communities of color, has declined; and there has been an increase of hate crimes and violence.
- *What does our community contribute?* CIOGC and our 64 member organizations, representing 400,000 Illinoisians are taking the lead on the 'Take on Hate' campaign, which is national, interfaith and bi-partisan. We are working with interfaith partners to sign onto the resolution. We commit to combatting violence by helping stop hate crimes and bigotry whenever and wherever we see it, and stand for peace, acceptance and inclusion to promote our core American values that no one should be targeted solely because of their faith or ethnicity.
- *What is our analysis?* Illinois has welcomed, supported and protected people of all races, ethnicities, religions and nationalities for over two centuries; and Illinois is proud to be a very diverse state, with 13.5% immigrants, 14.5% African Americans and the third highest concentration of American Muslims in the country. It has welcomed people of all races, ethnicities, religions and nationalities since its founding; and Illinois should continue to uphold the values set forth in the U.S. Constitution by protecting all its residents no matter their faith and/or ethnicity.
- *Who else is working on this issue?* CAIR-Chicago, CIOGC's 64 members

ASK:

- 1) Support SR 1726, currently sponsored by Senator Mattie Hunter

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5. Reinstating the Illinois Muslim American Advisory Council

- *What is the problem?* The Illinois Muslim American Advisory Council (MAAC) has served the Governor's office of Illinois since 2011. MAAC was working closely with Governor Quinn and was dissolved when Governor Rauner was elected. With growing Islamophobia across the nation and particularly in Illinois, it is important that MAAC is reinstated to advise our elected officials on matters concerning our community. This Council was modeled after the African-American Family Commission and the Latino Family Commission that represent the voices of minorities.
- *What does our community contribute?* CIOGC represents the largest number of Muslim voices in Illinois. Our House of Representatives, comprised of 64 member organization representatives, has had several members serve on MAAC. They were appointed by Governor Quinn because of their knowledge of the 400,000 strong Illinois Muslim community.
- *What is our analysis?* Representing close to 500,000 and growing population of Muslim citizens, the Muslim American Advisory Council (MAAC). The first public body of its kind in the nation, the MAAC was established in August 2011 to ensure input to the Illinois Governor from the State's diverse Muslim community and to facilitate communication to the Muslim community on the benefits and responsibilities of Illinois citizenship. We believe that the MAAC has successfully provided a means for the Governor to be in touch with the thinking of a representative cross-section of Illinois Muslims who are thoroughly committed to the safety, integrity and betterment of Illinois and America. We believe that its value to the Governor's Office and other state offices has been established.
- *Who else is working on this issue?* CIOGC's 64 members

ASK:

1) Vote yes on SB 574, currently sponsored by Senator Jaqueline Collins

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Summary - Community Level Impacts of IL State Budget Cuts as of February 2016

United Way 2016 Survey of 500 Organizations Receiving State Funding:

- 84% of respondents had to cut their number of clients served, up from 34% in July 2015
- 31% of respondents have less than 1 month of cash reserves to sustain their organizations
- 22% of respondent organizations have been forced to lay off staff

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois - Canary in the Coalmine

- State owed LSSI \$6 million • Forced to close 30 programs • Loss of 750 jobs = 43% of employees
- 5,000 seniors, veterans, youth and families lost access to in-home care, respite services, mental health care, substance abuse counselling and treatment, youth shelters and foster care services

Overall Harm to Working Families and Economy

- 10,000 kids not no longer eligible for child care; co-pays have risen 20%
- 419 infrastructure projects halted
- Reduced public transit in central Illinois; totally eliminate in some counties
- 90% of homeless service providers forced to cut, clients, services, staff
- 100,000 immigrants lost access to services
- Pregnancy through age 3 services eliminated impacting 6,000 mothers

Overall Endangerment of Communities & Public Safety

- Funding eliminated for training of 57,000 police officers
- 15,000 youth impacted by cuts to after school programs; 122 sites statewide
- Redeploy IL youth decarceration and violence prevention programs ended in 23 counties
- State stopped match funding for psychiatrists serving uninsured with mental illness
- Substance abuse programs cut, closed; 70,000 impacted
- All housing service waitlists are swelling - estimated 120,000 homeless Chicagoans; CHA has reserve of \$440 million

Overall Impacts on Seniors, Children & People with Disabilities

- 84,500 seniors lost meals on wheels and community based services
- Independent living centers not being funded; service and job loss
- Senior protective services defunded
- TAP autism program defunded; 1,800 families impacted
- 130,000 people with epilepsy no longer receiving services

Impacts on Mental & Physical Health Care

- Half of all health departments forced to lay off a third of staff, reducing hours/capacity to provide services
- Zero state funding for breast and cervical cancer screenings
- Eliminated prescription drug assistance program for people living with HIV/AIDS
- Public Health Emergency Response Network lost 75% of funding
- Rape crisis centers forced to close
- Reduced triage hours for severe mental health care

Damage to Higher Education and Long-term Economy

- Half of all IL colleges and 80% of community colleges not crediting MAP grants; 130,000 students impacted.
- Eastern IL University forced to eliminate 170 positions
- Chicago State University forced to make major staff cuts; may close doors
- Tuitions rising - up 5% since Fall 2015 semester

Sources:

Responsible Budget Coalition - Report from January 26, 2016

Voices for IL Children. Fiscal Policy Center.

<http://www.voices4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Lack-of-Budget-Dismantling-Critical-State-Services-Final.pdf>

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Ensuring Illinois's Future by Insuring All Illinois Kids

Overview

- The All Kids program offers Illinois children comprehensive healthcare that includes doctors visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, vision care, dental care and medical devices like eyeglasses and asthma inhalers. All Kids covers regular check-ups and immunizations. All Kids also covers special services like medical equipment, speech therapy and physical therapy for children who need them.¹
- All Kids eligibility is based on state residency, insurance status, age and household income; children are eligible regardless of immigration status.²

Children in low-income families are at greater risk for poor health

- Children in poor families are nearly seven times more likely to be in poor or fair health compared to children in high-income families.³
- Children born to mothers of low income are at a higher risk to be premature or of low birth weight – conditions that increase the possibility of future health and development complications.⁴
- Research has shown, however, that as public insurance has become more widely available, the rate of low-weight births has declined.⁵

All Kids Provides Short- and Long-Term Benefits

- Health insurance, such as the All Kids public health insurance program, is vital to successful outcomes for children.⁶ More than 88 percent of children aged zero to five covered by Medicaid nationally receive one or more preventive medical visits, as compared to 63 percent of uninsured children.⁷
- Children's health insurance—such as All Kids—goes beyond immediate health access; it impacts the long-term health and development of a child and increases the likelihood of higher educational attainment. Tied closely to these outcomes is the potential for public coverage to reduce pervasive health and socioeconomic disparities.⁸
- A major benefit of Medicaid's coverage for young children is the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits package. Notably, EPSDT provides coverage for health screening and care recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics' Bright Futures standards.⁹ EPSDT broadens the definition of medical necessity for children, stating that services must be offered not just to improve or eliminate a condition, but also "to correct or ameliorate defects and physical and mental illnesses and conditions."¹⁰ This requirement promotes the early discovery and treatment of health problems that may impede a child's development.¹¹
- More than 30 percent of publicly insured children from ages zero to five are at moderate to high risk of developmental, behavioral, or social delays.¹²
- Publicly insured children report health screenings at a rate (32%) that is 28 percent higher than uninsured children, and similar to privately insured children (31%).¹³ A child with untreated health problems is more likely to experience cognitive, behavioral, or physical disabilities as a child, and to develop future conditions such as high blood pressure, heart disease, and diabetes.¹⁴ Screening is essential to early interventions. Early childhood screening, made possible through EPSDT, leads to earlier, more effective care that can preempt complicated treatments and education services later in childhood.¹⁵
- Early childhood programs promote higher educational attainment, which is closely associated with adult health. A recent study from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that Medicaid expansions have positively affected educational attainment. A 10 percentage point increase in average Medicaid eligibility for children led to a 5 percent decrease in the high school dropout rate and greater than a 3 percent increase in the four-year college attainment rate.¹⁶

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Medicaid for young kids is cost-effective

- Children are the largest group of Medicaid beneficiaries but they do not account for most spending. Nationally, children zero to five constitute 19 percent of Medicaid enrollees, however they only account for 8 percent of Medicaid spending.¹⁷ In Illinois, children zero to eighteen comprise 57 percent of the overall Medicaid program but account for just 26 percent of the total cost.¹⁸

Children's Access to All Kids Health Insurance Benefits Our Entire State

- Access to health insurance and care can improve individual and population health.¹⁹
- Medicaid has been linked to broad quality of life improvements for immigrant families by providing access to preventative and primary care, health education and connecting eligible Immigrants to social services.²⁰ In Hawaii and Massachusetts where there is near universal insurance coverage, research is showing lower mortality rates.²¹
- Health insurance prevents major financial crisis for individuals and families.²² A national study found that 62 percent of all consumer bankruptcies in 2007 involved medical debt.²³

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