

## **2020 Veto Session Agenda**

### **For Economic and Racial Justice in Illinois**

The dual pandemics of [COVID-19](#) and the [racist killings of Black men and women](#) have laid bare the systemic racism and structural inequities Black, Latino/a/x, and communities of color are faced with daily. The moment is now to ensure immediate and long-term health, safety, and security for communities across Illinois. The Shriver Center on Poverty Law recommends the following initiatives for consideration in the 2020 Illinois Veto Session and inclusion in the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Agenda to address the pandemics facing our communities.

#### **End Unfair Practices in the Criminal Legal System**

[HB 1115](#) – **Limit Electronic Monitoring for People on Mandatory Supervised Release (Rep. Ammons / Sen. Peters)** - Once people have served their prison time, they should be free. Every year in Illinois, thousands of people who have been released from prison after serving their prison sentence are immediately placed on electronic monitoring home detention by the Prisoner Review Board (PRB). According to research conducted by both [SPAC](#) and [ICJA](#), “electronic monitoring generally has a minimal effect on reducing recidivism and changing criminal behavior and electronic monitoring, as currently used, does not serve rehabilitative goals or substantially impact recidivism.” Additionally, the research shows that electronic monitors are disproportionately issued to Black people. Limiting the discretionary use of electronic monitoring could allow for scarce resources to be reallocated, allow returning individuals to find employment, reconnect with family, contribute to their communities, and rebuild their lives. People statutorily required to wear an electronic monitor are not covered by this bill.

**Pre-Trial Fairness Act (Sen. Peters / Rep. Slaughter)** - The use of money bonds in the Illinois court system means that access to money becomes the deciding factor in determining whether someone remains in jail before the outcome of their case. The Act would reform the pre-trial justice system for people accused of crimes and end the use of money bond. In doing so, this bill will alleviate the financial burden, money bonds put on families and accused people. The Act ensures that lack of access to wealth is never the reason people stay in jail and no longer makes poverty a driver of incarceration.

#### **Ensure Economic Stability**

[HB 2343](#) - **Healthy Workplace Act (Rep. Gordon-Booth / Sen. Lightford)** – The pandemic highlights the need for a solution for all workers, including essential workers, to have at least a minimal amount of sick leave to use without fear of a loss of income or their jobs. About 1.5

million workers in Illinois do not have access to even a single paid sick day. Over three-fourths of low-wage workers do not have paid sick leave; Black, Latino/a/x people and women are overrepresented among low-wage workers relative to their share of the total number in the workforce. Too many low-wage workers go to work sick because they cannot afford to take unpaid leave, and fear losing their job if they do.

**Build on [SB 3066 HA 2](#) with Emergency Eviction Protections (Rep. Ramirez)** – COVID-19 has caused unprecedented economic instability for renters across Illinois. Though there is a moratorium on evictions and a fund to provide rental assistance, there is not enough funding available to help everyone in need. As a result, an influx of eviction filings once the moratorium is lifted and courts reopen is inevitable. Evictions disparately impact Black communities, especially Black women and families. Majority Black areas had eviction filing rates two to four times higher than majority Latino/a/x or white areas. To curb the number of eviction filings once the moratorium is lifted, tenants should be able to work out a payment plan with their landlords without fear of eviction. Renters should also not face permanent housing instability due to the COVID-19 pandemic. An eviction record, including even the mere filing of a case, hampers a tenant's ability to secure housing. The amendment would protect tenants from the long-term consequences of eviction records and prevent eviction filings where the tenant is attempting to pay in good faith.

**[HB 5669](#) / [SB 3429](#) Expands the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) (Rep. Welch / Sen. Steans)** - The EITC helps over-taxed low-income workers in Illinois get a cost of living refund. By adding caregivers, 18-24-year-old childless adults, adults over 65, students eligible for MAP grants, and all immigrants who file taxes using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, we build on the success of the current program and expand racial equity. Because Black and Latino/a/x Illinoisans are overrepresented in low wage occupations that we propose be covered by the EIC, the impact of our proposal on Black and Latino/a/x households would be substantial. Currently, 14% of all dollars spent on EIC go to Black filers, and 10% of all dollars spent on Illinois' EIC go to Latino/a/x filers. If Illinois expands its EIC as we propose, 26% of new EIC dollars would go directly to Black filers, and 18% of the new EIC dollars would go directly to Latino/a/x filers.

### **Eliminate Biases and Injustices in the Healthcare System**

**[HB 4](#) - Doula Services (Rep. Greenwood)** – Provides for Doula services to be covered under Medicaid. Doulas are non-medical professionals that focus on prenatal care, labor and delivery, and postpartum care. Doulas can help reduce the impacts of racism and racial bias in health care settings by providing individually tailored and client centered care and advocacy for pregnant and postpartum people through information, education, and physical, social, and emotional support.

**[HB 5522](#) – Medical Implicit Bias Training (Rep. Welch)** – Provides for implicit bias training for persons licensed under the Medical Practice Act, Nurse Practice Act, and Physician Assistant Act to address disparities and its contributing factors in health outcomes.

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