

ADVOCACY UPDATE

November 11, 2019

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In sickness and in health®

What's New?

- Impeachment proceedings continue to rule the day in DC, House should wrap up its work before Christmas
- More arrests and resignations as an ongoing corruption investigation shakes up Chicago and Springfield
- CTU strike ends, but how will it impact relations between the mayor and members of the city council?

City of Chicago & Cook County

Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Proposals

- PILOT programs require nonprofit institutions that do not pay property taxes to pay a separate fee to city to make up for lost revenue. Boston enacted a voluntary PILOT program in 2012.
- There are several PILOT proposals on the City of Chicago level, including one that specifically targets health systems and universities.
- Cook County Health and Hospital System leadership has also been publically stating that other hospitals in Cook County do not do enough charity care.
- As the largest Medicaid provider in the state and a system with three safety net hospitals, we are proud of the work we do in our communities caring for the uninsured, underinsured and Medicaid populations.
- We will continue to work with our state and local governments to address the underlying causes of increasing amounts of charity care, including Medicaid application processing delays, rising co-pays and deductibles in private plans, and lack of insurance coverage for the undocumented population.

Budget Hearings Underway

- Cook County budget set to pass with little drama and no tax increases.
- City of Chicago facing very different scenario with a budget hole of \$838 million.
- Additional costs from the CTU strike settlement and resistance from Springfield on some of the Mayor's proposals are making the budget process more difficult.
- The creation of a new real estate transfer tax and restructuring the taxes for a Chicago casino are two of the items the Mayor wants to pass that are facing resistance from state legislators.

Vaping Update

- Legislation hit some speed bumps in Springfield, but movement likely this week during veto session on a flavored vape product ban
- **Please take action on the Advocacy Hub to reach out to your state legislator**
- Death and Illness totals
- Trump is meeting with vaping industry leaders today and is expected to unveil his own proposal
- Sen. Durbin and Rep. Krishnamoorthi continue to put pressure on the FDA and their colleagues in Congress to take action on this issue



Donald J. Trump ✓
@realDonaldTrump

Will be meeting with representatives of the Vaping industry, together with medical professionals and individual state representatives, to come up with an acceptable solution to the Vaping and E-cigarette dilemma. Children's health & safety, together with jobs, will be a focus!

8:00 AM · Nov 11, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

Second Week of Veto Session

Of the 8 bills that were vetoed or amendatory vetoed by the Governor, only one motion to override was attempted and failed on SB 2026 (Rezin/Mason). The bill sought to require GA approval before the State could seek a waiver from ACA requirements.

New legislation in the works includes:

- Insulin co-pay caps
- Ethylene oxide restrictions
- Local pension fund consolidation
- Possible increased ethics regulations for lobbyists



State Payment Update

ESTIMATED GENERAL FUNDS PAYABLE BACKLOG

The backlog includes what is currently at the Office of Comptroller and the estimated \$0.605 billion with state agencies.

\$6,227,226,739.00

VOUCHERS BACKLOGGED

Includes vouchers and transfers to other state funds.

93,176

*Bonding update – IOC is waiting until a large amount of bills are over 90 days old to bond \$1.5 billion



Hospital Assessment Program Phase 2 Design aka Three-dimensional Chess

- Competing Priorities--HFS/CMS, IHA, Legislators, others TBD
- Transformation
- Changing Care Delivery Models
- Limited Funds
- Tax Mitigation
- Directed Payments



Federal Update

Short-term continuing resolution (CR) funding bill

Congress needs to pass a CR funding bill by 11/21 in order to avoid a government shutdown. Length of the measure is unclear and it is also unclear how long the short-term measure will last, but we are anticipating the short term patch will expire shortly before the holidays. Also unclear is whether lawmakers will include any of the healthcare extenders including delaying and reducing Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) cuts and funding for community health centers.

Several healthcare issues remain front and center

Negotiations between House and Senate lawmakers and the White House continue around:

- drug pricing
- surprise medical bills
- healthcare extenders

Ambassadors in Action

Ten AMITA Health Hospitals Earn Top National Safety Grades from The Leapfrog Group for Focus on Patient Safety

Lisle, Ill. – Ten AMITA Health hospitals have been awarded “A” grades for the fall 2019 release from The Leapfrog Group, the top safety grade awarded for performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, infections and other patient harm.



On the front lines of mental health care, emergency rooms across Chicago are adapting



By KATE THAYER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE | OCT 31, 2019 | 8:00 AM

**NEXT CALL: DECEMBER 16, 2019
2:00 PM**