

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless 2017 Illinois Legislative Report

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless advocated for the following legislation in 2017:

HB 2373: Criminal Records Sealing

Eliminates barriers to sealing criminal records, allowing certain offenses or non-convictions to be automatically sealed.

- Sponsors: Rep. Lilly/Sen. Harmon
- CCH partners: Community Renewal Society, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Heartland Alliance
- Status: Signed into law on 8/24/17, effective immediately. - Public Act [100-0284](#)

HB 3212: Minor Consent to Housing

Allows homeless minors to consent to their own placement in transitional housing and services.

- Sponsors: Rep. Wallace/Sen. Trotter
- CCH partners: Housing Action Illinois, Unity Parenting Counseling, ACLU of Illinois, Illinois Collaboration on Youth
- Status: Signed into law on 8/18/2017, effective Jan. 1, 2018 - Public Act [100-062](#)

HB 3709: Minor Mental Health and Counseling

Increases from five to eight the number of counseling or psychotherapy sessions that a minor can have without preapproval of a parent/guardian. (Bill drafted by CCH youth health attorney)

- Sponsors: Rep. Sims/Sen. Lightford
- CCH partners: Shriver Center, Everthrive Illinois
- Status: Signed into law on 8/18/2017, effective Jan. 1, 2018 - Public Act [100-0196](#)

HB 3211: SNAP for Community College Students

Would allow low-income vocational-track community college students to apply for SNAP food benefits. Would require community colleges have staff to help students apply.

- Sponsors: Rep. Wallace/Sen. Morrison
- CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, Shriver Center
- Status: Passed by the legislature, amendatory veto by the governor.

SB2074: Conviction History Report Act

Would prohibit consumer reporting agencies from reporting anything five years after date of conviction or anything that was not a conviction.

- Sponsor: Sen. Don Harmon
- CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Community Renewal Society
- Status: Did not pass the legislature.

HB 3142: Ban the Box - Public Colleges

Would require that public colleges cannot ask about an applicant's criminal record on admissions applications, and disregard information from multi-college applications regarding

criminal records. Colleges would have been able to ask about records after admission was decided, but could not rescind because of the answer.

- Sponsors: Rep. B. Wheeler/Sen. McGuire
- CCH partners: Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Community Renewal Society, Heartland Alliance, ACLU of Illinois
- Status: Did not pass the legislature.

CCH signed in support of the following legislation and resolutions:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB 2663: Prevent Expulsion from Early Childhood Programs

Requires early childhood programs that receive State Board of Education grants to document steps attempted in caring for a child, and transition plans if the child cannot safely stay in the program.

- Sponsors: Rep. Stratton/Sen. Lightford
- CCH partner: Ounce of Prevention Fund
- Status: Signed into law on 8/14/2017, effective Jan. 1, 2018 - Public Act [100-0105](#)

HB 0242: Ban the Box - All Colleges

Would require that colleges cannot ask about sealed or expunged criminal records, non-convictions, or terminated cases. Questions about records could not be asked during the admissions process, and after admission, knowledge of records could not be used to rescind admission.

- Sponsor: Rep. Mary E. Flowers
- CCH partners: Heartland Alliance, ACLU of Illinois
- Status: Did not pass the legislature.

HB 3822: Licensing for Individuals with Criminal Records

Would allow individuals seeking licenses, certifications or registrations to not disclose sealed or expunged records. Prohibits agencies and organizations asking for the same or factoring them into the hiring process.

- Sponsor: Rep. Evans
- CCH partners: Safer Foundation
- Status: Did not pass the legislature.

SB 1614: Preservation of Driver's Licenses

Blocks any non-car crime as reason for revocation of a driver's license, and allows individuals to re-petition for return of a license, including individuals who may have committed specific crimes related to the operation of a car while a minor.

- Sponsor: Sen. Aquino
- CCH partners: Chicago Jobs Council, Heartland Alliance
- Status: Did not pass the legislature.

HEALTH CARE

HR 445: Oppose American Health Care Act

A resolution to oppose the American Health Care Act, which would repeal the Affordable Health Care Act, resulting in millions of people losing insurance.

- Sponsors: Rep. G. Harris
- Status: Resolution adopted as amended.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

HB 3060: Homeless ID Assistance

Allows homeless individuals to obtain birth certificate records at no cost if they have a verification from a legal or social service agency as to their homeless status.

- Sponsors: Rep. Guzzardi/Sen. Martinez
- CCH partners: Cook County Clerk David Orr's office, Ounce of Prevention Fund
- Status: Signed into law on 9/15/17, effective Jan. 1, 2018 - Public Act [100-0506](#)

HB 261: Education-Homeless Child Assistance

Allows school districts to use transportation funds that assist homeless students to be used for homeless prevention assistance to a student's family, such as rental assistance.

- Sponsors: Rep. Mussman/Sen. Bennett
- CCH partners: Housing Action Illinois
- Status: Signed into law on 8/25/17, effective immediately - Public Act [100-0332](#)

CCH signed on in opposition to these bills:

HB 3288: Abused Kids Reporting

Requires all individuals to act as mandatory reporters if witnessing child abuse.

- Sponsor: Rep. Kelly Cassidy
- Partners in Opposition: Heartland Alliance
- Status: Did not pass the legislature.

SB 1482: Limits on Transit to Schools

Allows the State Board of Education to establish limits on how far children may be transported to their school district if they move into a different district.

- Sponsor: Sen. Chapin Rose
- Partners in Opposition: The Night Ministry, Illinois Action for Children, Housing Action Illinois, Illinois Collaboration on Youth, Ounce of Prevention Fund, Shriver Center
- Status: Did not pass the legislature.