



December 15, 2025

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker, Governor of Illinois  
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*Sent Via Electronic Mail Only*

**Re: H.R. 1 Implementation**

Dear Governor Pritzker, Deputy Governor Hou, Director Whitehorn, and Secretary Quintero:

We write regarding the State of Illinois' implementation of the budget reconciliation act of 2025 (H.R. 1). We know that the Governor's Office, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) are working diligently to prioritize the health and wellbeing of all Illinoisans in implementing H.R. 1, and we welcome all opportunities to support these endeavors.

The [Protect Our Care Illinois \(POCIL\) Coalition](#) brings together a variety of organizations that work closely with people and families applying for and enrolled in Medicaid, ACA subsidies, and other state-based health programs. We write at this time to make a few requests not about the *substance* of H.R. 1 implementation, but instead regarding the *process* moving forward.

We strongly appreciated the work and collaboration between HFS, IDHS, and stakeholders during the COVID-19 public health emergency. We wish to start from that foundation and expand upon it as we move forward with H.R. 1.

Specifically, we ask for rich stakeholder engagement including regular standing meetings that are open to the public that allow for in-depth learning, discussion, and feedback. We envision these meetings occurring virtually, at least monthly, with an open chat, and led by a person with subject-matter expertise. Respectfully, we do not want these meetings to be report-outs of what's already been done. We instead request to discuss substantive issues in these meetings and collaborate on paths forward. These meetings must be advertised with a clear agenda in advance, so it will be easy for stakeholders who are interested in participating to learn about these meetings and meaningfully participate in them.

We also recognize that H.R. 1 is a massive reconfiguring of Medicaid on an extremely tight timeline. As such, there will be times when a smaller, targeted group of advocates may be uniquely positioned to provide quick strategy and implementation feedback to our colleagues at the State. We at POCIL are happy to assist in identifying a cohort of advocates to assist in this capacity, so long as the focus on regular, in-depth public meetings remains the northstar of our collaboration.

We all appreciate that Medicaid coverage is foundational to the health and well-being of millions of people in Illinois and that loss of coverage can be catastrophic for Medicaid members and their families. We are grateful to live in a State that takes this responsibility so seriously.

We stand at the ready to assist the State in taking immediate action to plan for and address H.R. 1 implementation. We thank you for your teams' leadership and collaboration as we move forward.

Please reach out to Meghan Carter at [mcarter-at-legalcouncil.org](mailto:mcarter-at-legalcouncil.org) and Nadeen Israel at [nisrael-at-aidschicago.org](mailto:nisrael-at-aidschicago.org) if you'd like to discuss any aspect of this letter.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to hearing from you by December 29, 2025.

Sincerely,

Protect Our Care Illinois Coalition