# **Health Science Librarians of Illinois Legislative Committee Report Submitted by Cara Forster, Isabel Ryan, and Carmen Howard (co-chairs)**

#  **Covering: September 20, 2024 through June 12, 2025**

1. **Committee Members/Co-Chairs:**
	1. Current: Cara Forster and Isabel Ryan
	2. Former: Carmen Howard (ended term November 2024)

Legislative Update posts were made by the co-chairs.

# **Illinois Updates**

August 2024

A couple of bills to watch:

**SB3703 – NURSING STUDENT STIPEND PROG** – Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall establish a nursing student stipend program to reimburse eligible applicants for the pre-licensure nursing program cost incurred during the previous academic year from a baccalaureate degree nursing program. Sets forth provisions concerning application for a stipend, the amount of the stipend, the pre-licensure nursing program cost, the distribution of funds, information on the stipend program, and rulemaking. Status – Re-referred to Assignments.

More information is available [here](https://web.archive.org/web/20240918152108/https%3A//legiscan.com/IL/bill/SB3703/2023).

**HB4823 – $IDPH-LOCAL HEALTH PROT GRANTS** – Appropriates $10,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Public Health for local health protection grants for health protection programs. Status – Re-referred to Rules Committee.

More information is available [here](https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB4823/2023).

Several bills were signed into state law in July. You can see a list [here](https://legiscan.com/IL/legislation?status=passed).

And a small sample of the media coverage for some of the health-related laws:

[Illinois clearing $1B in medical debt and you may be eligible for relief (State Journal-Register)](https://www.sj-r.com/story/news/politics/state/2024/07/09/illinois-clearing-1b-in-medical-debt-and-you-may-be-eligible-for-relief/74325665007/)

[Pritzker Signs Law Banning Health Insurance Companies’ ‘Predatory Tactics,’ Including Step Therapy (usnews.com)](https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/illinois/articles/2024-07-10/pritzker-signs-law-banning-health-insurance-companies-predatory-tactics-including-step-therapy)

[Gov. JB Pritzker signs Illinois birth equity initiative into law, celebrates Medicaid expansion (ABC7 Chicago)](https://abc7chicago.com/post/gov-jb-pritzker-signs-illinois-birth-equity-initiative/15118221/)

June 2024

The Illinois Library Association recently posted a summary of recent important library legislative news. You can see their update [here](https://www.ila.org/news/5744/legislative-update-june-13-2024).

# **Federal Updates**

December 2024

Soon, we’ll have a Republican presidential administration, as well as a Republican majority in the House and Senate. Legislative priorities will likely remain unclear until Trump’s cabinet is officially in place. To learn more about the nominated cabinet members, including their beliefs, organizational ties, campaign donations, and track records, considering exploring some of the candidates.

August 2024

As we get closer to the Presidential Election, it’s important to stay aware of the promises and track records of the candidates.

* KKF: [Compare the Candidates on Health Policy](https://www.kff.org/compare-2024-candidates-health-care-policy/)
* Ballotpedia: [Presidential candidates on the issues, 2024](https://ballotpedia.org/Presidential_candidates_on_the_issues%2C_2024)

Meanwhile, a current Supreme Court case, [*Oklahoma v. Department of Health and Human Services*](https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/oklahoma-v-department-of-health-and-human-services/), could dramatically affect Federal regulations on Medicare and Medicaid.

The House Appropriations Committee has approved a proposed 15% cut to the only federal library funding agency. This budget will be presented to the full House before the end of the year, so now is the time to urge representatives to take a strong stance against it. [Tell Congress to stop the cuts to libraries!](https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo_id=22968)

June 2024

In response to a lack of Federal legislation on Artificial Intelligence, senators introduced a bipartisan bill on June 11, 2024, the [Promoting Responsible Evaluation and Procurement to Advance Readiness for Enterprise-wide Deployment for Artificial Intelligence Act](https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/media/dems/peters-and-tillis-introduce-bipartisan-bill-to-ensure-the-federal-government-safely-and-responsibly-purchases-and-uses-artificial-intelligence) (“PREPARED for AI Act”). Among other things, PREPARED for AI would provide a risk mitigation framework that would guide the adoption of A.I. tools into the government sphere.

States are not waiting on federal legislation however. Many have introduced and/or passed [their own legislation](https://www.perkinscoie.com/en/news-insights/states-begin-to-regulate-ai-in-absence-of-federal-legislation.html) to address issues like privacy, intellectual property, consumer protections, and security.

[A federal court on June 20, 2024](https://web.archive.org/web/20241209081148/https%3A//www.modernhealthcare.com/digital-health/hhs-rule-third-party-tracking-aha-suit) ruled the Health and Human Services Department lacks the authority under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act to prohibit providers from using third-party web tracking technologies on their websites in certain situations. The judge argued that HHS was attempting to expand the protections of HIPAA to cover personal information that is not health related.

On June 6, 2024, the US Supreme Court decided [*Becerra v. San Carlos Apache Tribe* and *Becerra v. Northern Arapaho*](https://www.wilmerhale.com/insights/client-alerts/20240611-in-narrow-victory-for-tribal-nations-us-supreme-court-requires-federal-government-to-reimburse-tribal-nations-for-healthcare-administration-costs)Tribe (Nos. 23-250 and 23-253), holding that the Indian Health Service (IHS) must reimburse Native nations, bands, and tribes that run their own healthcare systems for costs associated with program income from Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers. This could provide billions of dollars in reimbursement of costs to support tribal healthcare programs.”