

News...

...from the Illinois House of Representatives

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North Side State Legislators Address Medical Community's Top Concerns

CHICAGO – State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) and State Rep. Greg Harris (D-Chicago) met with medical professionals on Monday at a legislative forum hosted by Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center in Lakeview.

The annual forum is an opportunity for medical professionals to meet with state legislators and learn about legislation pertinent in their line of work. As chair of the Human Services Appropriations Committee that oversees funding and appropriations for the state's health care services and Medicaid system, Feigenholtz is a regular participant in these discussion sessions.

“Given the unprecedented challenges the state faces, collaborative governance is the only way we are going to create lasting, effective solutions,” Feigenholtz said. “It is extremely important for my colleagues and me to work with and listen to the people providing direct services to understand the daily challenges and look at issues from a more localized perspective.”

Speaking to a group of nursing professionals, Feigenholtz and other panelists addressed the future of non-profit hospitals' tax exempt status and the governor's cuts to the state's Medicaid rates. While the legislature passed a budget that extended the Medicaid payment cycle rather than reducing reimbursements, Governor Quinn proposed \$276 million in Medicaid rate cuts. Both issues are expected to be addressed when the legislature reconvenes.

“The medical community has a lot at stake in Illinois in terms of the state budget and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act,” said Feigenholtz. “The folks here today are clearly concerned about the effects of budget cuts to health care services; demand for health care is growing while budgets are shrinking. There is a lot of work ahead of us.”

For more information, contact Feigenholtz's constituent services office at (773) 296-4141 or sara@staterepsara.com.

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