



# Feigenholtz: We focused Illinois budget priorities on the needs of the 99%

[David Ormsby](#), Springfield Political Buzz Examiner

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**(Chicago, IL)** –The Illinois General Assembly on Tuesday restored nearly \$60 million to local mental health and substance abuse treatment providers in Chicago and Illinois, drawing praise from local behavior health care leaders.

"This supplemental budget immediately restores mental health and substance abuse treatment money to community care providers who received less money than intended in the state's original budget," said State Rep. **Sara Feigenholtz** (D-Chicago), Chair of the House Human Services Appropriations Committee.

"The money will ensure that mothers, children and others will get the care they need," Feigenholtz added.

The budget, **Senate Bill 2412**, which shifted money from various state accounts without increasing state spending, added \$30 million to community mental health services and \$28 million to substance abuse treatment care.

The bill passed the House 92-20, and in the Senate, 50-5.

"We focused on the 99%," said Feigenholtz. "Our budget priorities reflected their needs."

The restoration of behavioral health care money for community providers drew deep praise from top advocates.

"We would like to thank Governor **Pat Quinn**, the four legislative leaders and State Representative Sara Feigenholtz and State Senator Heather Steans for their leadership on a basket of issues critical to Illinois residents," said Community Behavioral Healthcare Association CEO **Frank Anselmo**.

"The successful effort to restore funding to Illinois substance abuse treatment services had many legislative champions, especially State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz who was a key leader in that effort," said Chicago-based Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities President **Pamela Rodriguez**.

"We are deeply grateful to her."

"The leadership and the commitment of both State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz and State Senator Heather Steans were absolutely central in the successful restoration of the addiction treatment money," said Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association CEO **Sara Moscato Howe**.

In addition to funding for mental health and substance abuse, the legislation also funds state funerals and burial services for the poor, domestic violence prevention programs, and provides \$4.7 million for homeless services.

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