

Governor's Medicaid bill cuts nearly \$1.4B from program, leaves cigarette tax for later

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SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — A group representing Illinois safety-net hospitals is praising proposed legislation filed in Springfield that would cut nearly \$1.4 billion from the state's Medicaid program.

The measure filed Monday cuts Medicaid payments to some hospitals. But it spares rural community hospitals and about 20 urban hospitals that care for many poor patients.

Association of Safety-Net Hospitals spokeswoman Julie Sznawajs (sneh-VYS') says Latino and black caucus members are "standing strong for their communities" by supporting the exception for safety-net hospitals.

Democratic House Rep. Sara Feigenholtz is a sponsor of the legislation. She expects a vote in the House on Wednesday or Thursday. The measure was filed Monday as a House amendment to a Senate bill.

She says Quinn's proposed cigarette tax will be dealt with separately.

The bill is SB2840.