

# ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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Director Forde and Director Eagleson:

As you are likely aware, we are working to hold managed care organizations (MCOs) with whom the State of Illinois contracts through the State's Medicaid health insurance program, accountable to meet their goals pursuant to the Business Enterprise Program for fair contracting. The data we have received thus far shows that the MCOs are falling well short of those goals. This is troubling, to say the least, and especially so in this moment where there is a heightened focus on racial justice for both African American and LatinX communities.

As we work through the solutions to this problem, we wanted to make you aware of two legislative proposals that we are excited about and hope you will join us in supporting. These initiatives can provide more opportunity for minority, women and disabled led organizations to be counted by the MCOs in achieving the goals and investment in Black and Brown communities that the BEP program seeks.

The first is the creation of a Minority, Women and/or Disabled-led certification for not-for-profits (HB4910/SB2940). With the proposed certification, eligible organizations could be counted toward supplier diversity goals and reporting in a variety of areas, including MCOs.

However, the certification alone is insufficient to allow not-for-profit providers the opportunity to be successful in a Medicaid managed care environment. We support establishing a Medicaid Technical Assistance Center (HB4959/SB3464) that provides training and technical assistance to community-based providers to help them contract with and successfully bill (i.e. actually get paid) for work with the MCOs. Research has found that, among other things, [small providers and those predominantly serving communities of color](#) are the least prepared to succeed in a managed care contracting environment.

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We look forward to working with you to get these bills enacted. We would very much appreciate hearing from you regarding any questions or concerns you have on either of the proposals.

Thank you for your consideration,

Representative Delia Ramirez

Representative Lamont Robinson

Representative Emanuel "Chris" Welch