



HR0718

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1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Access to healthcare is a fundamental human
3 right, critical to the well-being, dignity, and prosperity of
4 all individuals; and

5 WHEREAS, Illinois ensures equitable access to healthcare
6 services for all its residents through its Medical Assistance
7 Program (Medicaid), recognizing that diversity and inclusion
8 in procurement processes enrich and strengthen the healthcare
9 ecosystem; and

10 WHEREAS, Ensuring equitable access to healthcare and
11 inclusive providers increases positive healthcare outcomes and
12 quality of care; and

13 WHEREAS, Congruence with provider-patient race is
14 correlated with a reduction in patient mortality, increased
15 utilization of preventative services, improved connections
16 between patients and their primary care providers, and
17 reductions in returns to emergency departments after being
18 discharged; and

19 WHEREAS, The Illinois Health Care and Human Service Reform
20 Act of 2021 created the Medicaid Managed Care Oversight
21 Commission within the Illinois Department of Healthcare and

1 Family Services (HFS) to evaluate the effectiveness of
2 Illinois' managed care program and to address inadequate
3 levels of care coordination and care planning under MCOs; and

4 WHEREAS, The Illinois HealthCare and Human Services Reform
5 Act of 2021 created the Managed Care Oversight Fund as a
6 special fund in the State treasury to be used by HFS to support
7 contracting with women and minority-owned businesses as a part
8 of HFS's Business Enterprise Program requirements; and

9 WHEREAS, The Illinois HealthCare and Human Services Reform
10 Act of 2021 created the Medicaid Business Opportunity
11 Commission within the HFS to develop a program to support and
12 grow minority, women, and persons with disability-owned
13 businesses; and

14 WHEREAS, The involvement of Business Enterprise Program
15 (BEP) companies, encompassing women, minority, and
16 disabled-owned businesses is essential in reflecting the
17 diverse composition of Illinois and in promoting economic
18 equality and opportunity; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
21 the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services is
22 urged to include the following measures in the upcoming

1 Medicaid Managed Care Organization Request for Proposal (RFP)
2 to ensure a robust, equitable, and inclusive procurement
3 process:

4 (1) RFP Criteria Adjustment: The current RFP criteria
5 distributes BEP participation across women (8%),
6 minorities (11%), and disabled individuals (1%); to better
7 reflect the demographic composition of the State and to
8 promote greater equity, the new RFP criteria should be
9 adjusted to require participation from qualifying BEP
10 entities that are, at minimum, reflective of the State's
11 population; this change is a step towards contracts being
12 more representative of the State's minority population and
13 in keeping with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus'
14 Healthcare Pillar;

15 (2) Review and Accountability Mechanism: To ensure
16 ongoing commitment to these principles, a biennial review
17 of contract awardees should be conducted; should a
18 selected bidder not fairly represent BEP spend among the
19 minority population, the next qualified bidder will be
20 selected; this mechanism promotes accountability and
21 continuous improvement in achieving Illinois' diversity
22 and inclusion goals;

23 (3) Reporting and Oversight: The Department should, on
24 a monthly basis, provide a report to each member of the
25 General Assembly detailing adherence to the Healthcare
26 Pillar mandates previously enacted; this report should

1 include, but is not limited to, analysis of the total
2 spending and percentage of spending paid to BEP vendors by
3 awarded Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), broken down by
4 the vendors' race, gender, and status as either a
5 healthcare provider or non-healthcare provider; this
6 transparency is crucial for oversight and strategic
7 planning;

8 (4) Quarterly Recommendations by Black Caucus Leaders:
9 The three leaders of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus
10 should, on a quarterly basis, provide recommendations to
11 the Governor's Office regarding which MCOs should receive
12 an altered auto-assignment rate, taking into account BEP
13 spend alongside quality, innovation, and price; this
14 recommendation process ensures that MCOs are incentivized
15 to adhere to BEP spending goals, reflecting fairness and
16 equity in the BEP program;

17 (5) Total BEP Spend: Quarterly, the Commission on
18 Equity and Inclusion, in conjunction with HFS, should
19 compile and publicly report the total amount of BEP
20 expenditures across all MCOs participating in the Illinois
21 Medicaid Program, as compared to those MCO's total
22 spending on all Illinois Medicaid expenditures; this
23 report should include detailed delineation by race and
24 ethnicity of the contracted business owners, specifically
25 categorizing the expenditures among African American,
26 Asian, Latino, and White women-owned businesses;

1 furthermore, the report should clearly specify the
2 percentages and dollar amounts allocated to these BEP
3 companies, ensuring a clear and accessible breakdown that
4 highlights the State's dedication to equitable and
5 inclusive business practices; and

6 (6) In addition to demographic and financial details,
7 the report should distinguish between funds allocated to
8 providers versus non-providers, offering a nuanced view of
9 how BEP expenditures contribute to the Illinois Medicaid
10 Program; each MCO, as part of their contractual
11 obligations with the State, should provide detailed and
12 accurate data on their BEP spending; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this initiative aims to foster an
14 environment of accountability, where progress towards more
15 equitable and diverse procurement practices can be measured,
16 assessed, and adjusted as necessary to meet Illinois' goals;
17 and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That by instituting these reporting
19 requirements, the State of Illinois reaffirms its commitment
20 to not only achieving diversity in its procurement practices
21 but also to fostering an environment of transparency where the
22 impact of these practices can be openly evaluated and
23 celebrated and underscores the importance of intentional,
24 actionable measures in promoting equity, diversity, and

1 inclusion within the healthcare sector and beyond, ensuring
2 that our policies reflect our values and commitment to all
3 citizens of Illinois; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That these measures represent the State of
5 Illinois's commitment to fostering a healthcare system that is
6 equitable, diverse, and inclusive, recognizing the intrinsic
7 value of every individual and the strength that diversity
8 brings to our collective efforts to improve healthcare access
9 and outcomes.