

AARP – Illinois
AFSCME
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Citizen Action/Illinois
Doctors Council – SEIU
Healthcare Consortium of Illinois
Health and Disability Advocates
Health and Medicine Policy Group
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Association
Illinois Alliance for Retired Americans
IL Association of Nurse Anesthetists
Illinois Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Chiropractic Society
Illinois Mainstreet Alliance
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Illinois Nurses Association
Illinois PIRG
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nurses
Lutheran Advocacy - Illinois
March of Dimes
Planned Parenthood of IL
Protestants for the Common Good
Respiratory Health Assoc. of Metropolitan Chicago
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana
SEIU – Illinois Council
SEIU – Local 73
Small Business Advocacy Council

YES on SB 1313 (HA 2): ILLINOIS SMALL BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS NEED A COMPETITIVE HEALTH INSURANCE MARKET TO FIGHT RISING HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS

Anyone looking for health insurance knows consumers face take-it-or – leave-it deals, important information about coverage is buried in fine print and there is no effective way to shop around.

That’s why lawmakers should continue the next steps in creating an Illinois health insurance exchange.

WHAT IS AN EXCHANGE? It is an on-line, organized marketplace that makes it easier for consumers to compare prices and shop around for health insurance coverage. This will help:

- **Lower health care premiums** by strengthening the bargaining power of small business owners and individuals
- **Make costs for small businesses more predictable** by creating a large pool of consumers; one sick employee is less likely to spike costs.
- Give small businesses and individuals a **more transparent choice of plans** that they can easily compare on price and quality.

The General Assembly already approved creation of a health insurance exchange earlier this year. Now, SB 1313 will create a governing board. This will enable Illinois to access federal funds that will pay 100% of the cost to set up the exchange.

Among the protections for consumers and small businesses:

- The board must include representatives from small businesses and consumers.
- The General Assembly retains oversight with the creation of a legislative oversight committee.
- There are strong conflict of interest protections.
- There is a requirement for technical experts and advisory boards to ensure expertise is provided from industry stakeholders.
- Bans the use of any taxpayer dollars to run the exchange

For more information: Brian Imus, Illinois PIRG, 312-399-3834, brian@illinoispirg.org

