



# EQUALITY PROGRESS REPORT

You helped us develop an assertive agenda and then helped us advance it. These gains are an important milestone on the road to ensuring full equal treatment for LGBT individuals in Illinois.

***Equality Illinois advocated for and passed these three major bills in 2015, and continues to advocate for a moral budget:***



## **Protect LGBT youth from harmful Conversion Therapy**

By rallying our members, amplifying the voices of our supporters, and working with legislators, we helped the bill **pass with bipartisan support. Now, it's headed to the Governor's desk.**



## **Protect transgender individuals from Hate Crimes**

Modernizes existing Hate Crime law to specifically include gender identity and protect LGBT community institutions. **Passed unanimously and headed for the Governor's signature.**



## **Gain the right to specify gender in funeral arrangements**

Allows a person to designate their gender identity in funeral arrangements. **Passed with bipartisan support in IL House and Senate, now waiting for the Governor's approval.**



## **Ensure a moral budget and protect critical social services**

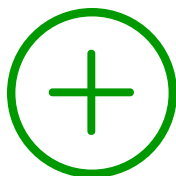
As legislators continue to work on a state budget plan, we continue to fight for vital services on which thousands of Illinoisans depend.

***Equality Illinois supported the following bills, which all passed the Illinois General Assembly:***



## **Publicize the National Human Trafficking Hotline**

The Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Human Services will work together to publicize the hotline as a resource. **Passed unanimously.**



## **Reform school disciplinary policies in the School Code**

Prohibits schools from charging fines and fees as a disciplinary action and limits suspensions and expulsions. **Passed with bipartisan support.**



## **Mandate youth suicide prevention policies in schools**

The bill requires school boards to adopt an age-appropriate youth suicide awareness and prevention policy. **Passed unanimously.**



## **Amend the AIDS Confidentiality Act**

Makes it easier for health care providers to conduct routine HIV screening and designates individuals to provide pre-test information and answer questions. **Passed unanimously.**



## Publicize National Human Trafficking Resource Center

Requires specified businesses and entities to prominently post a notice for the resource center, including the hotline number. **Passed unanimously.**



## Protect confidentiality for Medicaid members

Ensures that information for sensitive services are not sent to members in order to protect confidentiality and reduce barriers to care. **Passed unanimously.**

***Equality Illinois supported the following resolutions, which all passed the Illinois General Assembly (vote count not available):***



- Establish April 14 as Pay Equity Day
- Increase awareness of LGBT youth homelessness
- Designate September as Teen Suicide Prevention Month
- Request policy recommendations for youth HIV services

***We'll always remain vigilant, and we're still working on other bills:***



Legislative action is pending on over 10 EQIL-supported bills



None of the 3 bills opposed by Equality Illinois for threatening LGBT rights passed the legislature.

***PASSING LAWS IS JUST THE FOUNDATION FOR EQUAL TREATMENT.***

***PLEASE HELP OUR COMMUNITY KEEP MOVING FORWARD:***

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