

HSLI Legislative Committee

July 10, 2012—HSLI Board Meeting, Springfield

1. Major changes to Medicaid funding can be found at:

2.

<http://www2.illinoisgov/hfs/agency/Pages/Budget.aspx>

This is the FY2012 state budget required significant spending reductions; etc.

This will have impact on many medical programs involving health care in the state.

3. ILA Legislative Day attended by Fran, Eric, and Michael was a great success.

Very productive day talking with our State Representatives and Senator.

Summaries in the HSLI blog

4. Monitoring LSTA funding—Thanks Stacey for sending this information

5. Affordable Health Care Act passes the US Supreme Court—Monitor this development

6. Promote more Advocacy from our members to maintain library funding at the State and Federal level.

Submitted by:

Michael Wold

Eric Edwards

Suggested Agenda Items for HSLI July 10 Board Meeting (on behalf of HSLI Legislative Committee)

Illinois Library Day—HSLI members Fran Kovach, Michael Wold, and Eric Edwards participated in this year's Illinois Library Day, a day of legislative advocacy that was held in Springfield on April 18, with a training session the night before. They met as a group, or individually, with Illinois Senators Larry Bomke and Darin LaHood; Illinois Representatives Rich Brauer, Raymond Poe, and Jim Sacia; and United States Senator Mark Kirk (through Senator Kirk's staff representative Michael Rasmussen). Everyone whom Fran, Michael, and Eric visited was very receptive to the specific issues raised and the needs of libraries more generally.

Ongoing Legislative Issues—Several pieces of legislation from the 97th Illinois General Assembly session (2011-2013) have been of particular concern to health science libraries and to libraries in general. Senate Bill 2073 and Senate Bill 2862 have the potential to decrease substantially the level of funding available to libraries, and other public services, in counties that are tax-capped. Senate Bill 3169 would require that public libraries extend borrowing privileges to patrons living in homeless and emergency shelters. Even though SB 3169 is well-intended (in that it would assist homeless patrons who have lived in a library district for some time but have to this point been denied full library privileges), there have been concerns about a library's ability to track those patrons because of the lack of a permanent address. As of the end of the ILGA's 2012 spring session on June 30, none of the above legislation had been put to a vote, either in committee or before the full Senate; this could be due, at least in part, to the diligent efforts of library advocates on Illinois Library Day and throughout the legislative session.