

# HEARTLAND ALLIANCE

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

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## Heartland Leads Policy Change in Springfield

Heartland Alliance advanced a number of bills during the 2016 legislative session that were signed into law by Governor Rauner in August. Some of these advances include:

**Breaking Down Barriers to Employment:** Governor Rauner signed a number of important bills into law that will remove antiquated barriers to employment and licensing for people with criminal records. HB4360, HB4515, [SB42](#), and [SB3005](#) will open up job opportunities for people with criminal records in health care, education, and parks. Nationwide, there are thousands of legal barriers to employment for people with criminal records, but little evidence that a criminal record predicts workplace wrongdoing. These bills are a first step in re-balancing

our system so that the 2 in 5 adults in Illinois with a criminal record can build better lives for themselves and their families.

Heartland Alliance is proud to be a part of the Restoring Rights and Opportunities Coalition of Illinois (RROCI) that advanced these bills. RROCI is spearheaded by Heartland Alliance, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Community Renewal Society, and Cabrini Green Legal Aid and is committed to solutions driven with a community voice. RROCI believes that Illinois needs a fair system of justice that recognizes human dignity and that everyone deserves a meaningful future.

**Supporting Survivors of Trafficking, Torture, and Other Serious Crimes:** On August 21, the Governor signed a landmark bill that will provide state-funded services (including SNAP, TANF and Medicaid) for foreign-born survivors of trafficking, torture and other crimes. The bill (**SB3007: The Survivor Support and Trafficking Prevention Act**) not only will provide meaningful supports for pre-certified survivors of trafficking, but it will also provide access to these programs to anyone preparing to file or waiting for a decision on a T-Visa, U-Visa or asylum. The law will go into effect January 1, 2018.

**Advancing Worker's Rights:** The **Domestic Workers Bill of Rights – HB1288**, signed by the Governor this month, will give nannies, housecleaners, home care workers, and other domestic workers the same employment protections as workers in other industries by amending four state laws that currently exclude them. This includes the Minimum Wage Law, the Illinois Human Rights Act, the One Day of Rest in Seven Act, and the Wages of Women and Minors Act. The new law will ensure that all domestic workers receive the state minimum wage and overtime protections as well as protection against sexual harassment. It also ensures that domestic workers are entitled to a day of rest if they are employed by one employer for at least 20 hours a week. This law goes into effect January 1, 2017.

**Advancing Consumer Protections:** Governor Rauner also assigned **the Wage Assignment & Consumer Protections bill (SB2804)** into law. The bill will ensure that Illinois borrowers understand their rights during wage assignment. **Learn more.**

Thank you to our wonderful bill sponsors, who fought with us to see these bills become law: Representatives Hernandez, Lilly, Welch, and Cassidy and Senators Collins, Martinez, Harmon, Van Pelt, Biss, and Silverstein. We are very proud of these transformative legislative changes and will be working hard, alongside our amazing partners and legislators, to bring even more change in 2017.

If you have any questions about either of these bills please feel free to reach out to Kimberly Drew, Senior Project Manager of Economic Security Policy (SB3007, HB1288) at **kdrew@heartlandalliance.org**, Jody Blaylock, Senior Policy Associate, Financial Empowerment Policy (SB2804) at **jblaylock@heartlandalliance.org**, or Sam Tuttle, Director, Policy and Advocacy (HB4360, HB4515, SB42, SB3005) at **stuttle@heartlandallaince.org**.

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## Join Us at the IABG Partner Convening

We hope you'll join us for our 2016 Illinois Asset Building Group (IABG) Partner Convening on October 21st at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The convening is an opportunity to connect with your peers, lift up innovations in our field, and learn about new research. Attendees will play a key role in creating a policy agenda that addresses the racial wealth gap and financial services related challenges you see in your communities. The day before the convening, on October 20th, we'll be holding a training for partners that

have completed the CFPB's Your Money Your Goals Training. [Learn More & Register.](#)

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## State's Proposed Behavioral Health Medicaid Reform Released



The Rauner Administration recently announced its behavioral health transformation and Medicaid demonstration waiver plan, aimed at improving behavioral health services in Illinois. You can find more information about the plan and learn about upcoming public hearings [here](#).

Heartland Alliance will be monitoring the waiver process and providing feedback to ensure meaningful improvements.

The demonstration would begin July 1, 2017. Stay tuned!



[your borrower stories.](#)

## A Call for Stories: Help Us Curb Predatory Lending

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) recently released proposed rules that aim to curb predatory lending practices. As part of our comment letter, we would like to include stories from Illinois borrowers that highlight the need for strong rules. We need your help collecting these stories. [Learn more & submit](#)



## Join Our Research Team!

Do you care about social issues and solutions? Do you love translating complex information into clear and compelling language? Do you rarely close excel? If so, you would make a great addition to Heartland Alliance as the Director of Research.

The Director of Research leads the Social IMPACT Research

Center, a full-service research and evaluation resource. They will be responsible for leading the department's contract work, leading internal Heartland Alliance research and data-related strategic initiatives, and managing the operational functions of the team.

At Heartland, we see ourselves as partners and collaborators with our clients and their communities and bring an acute sense of the landscape, a deep knowledge of vulnerable populations, and a keen sense of social justice to every project.

Click [here](#) to learn more and apply.

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## Heartland Alliance's Candlelight Ball 2016

The Candlelight Ball kicks off on November 5, 2016, and you're invited. The Palmer House in downtown Chicago is our meeting spot for an evening of cocktails, food, and dancing. Come one, come all, bring a guest, and have a great time. All event proceeds will benefit Heartland Alliance.

Click [here](#) for tickets and more information

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