

Saving Hospice Care in Illinois Saves Illinois Money

Hospice patients and their families are threatened in Illinois by a 50% reduction to Hospice Care in the HFS (Healthcare and Family Services) budget. The tentatively approved state budget includes a 50% reduction in funding for Hospice, leaving Hospice Care in grave danger of elimination or severe reductions.

Hospice patients and their families need Hospice Care

- ✓ Hospice Care in Illinois comprehensively serves patients and their families throughout Illinois at their greatest time of need. Hospice care keeps dying patients comfortable and provides much support to their family members by providing a wide range of services that is customized to the individual needs of each patient and family.

Hospice Care saves Illinois money

- ✓ Hospice care provides what patients and families want during the last 6 months of life while saving Medicaid and Medicare money—it would be a mistake to make drastic cuts that would threaten the existence of a service that is saving the government money.
- ✓ By allowing dying patients to die with dignity at home or in the nursing home that they call “home”, studies show that there is a cost savings of \$2,300 per patient when they use hospice care.
- ✓ Hospices services are already capitated (fixed reimbursement) on a set per diem, a form of managing care that results in the state’s hospices supplementing the cost of care with fundraising. Unlike other forms of healthcare that charge the state for every healthcare service they perform (per service), hospice already accepts a fixed reimbursement rate and NO ONE—not the state, not the family—gets a bill to make up the difference (thus hospices must already stay very cost conscious and fundraise to make up the difference for costs that exceed what the state pays).
- ✓ Hospice care is a bargain to the state compared to emergency rooms and hospitals, which is where these patients will wind up without hospice care.
- ✓ In addition, hospice saves the state, our communities, and families countless dollars in healthcare costs by addressing the psychological, spiritual, social, and grief issues the entire family faces during their loved ones illness and bereavement follow up to survivors after their loved ones death.

Hospice Care represents JOBS

- ✓ Illinois’ hospice care employs thousands of people and contributes much to business in the state’s economy.

- ✓ Cutting back hospice means cutting jobs –In fact, cutting programs to balance the state budget – instead of raising new revenues – could cost the state thousands jobs.
- ✓ Lost earnings mean fewer dollars circulating in local economies and fewer taxes collected by local and state governments.