

SUPPORT HB5104 | House Sponsor: Rep. Carol Ammons (D)

MAKING CORRECTIONS FACILITES HEALTHIER, SAFER AND MORE COST EFFECTIVE

Today:

- Incarcerated individuals must pay a \$5 **co-pay** for health care services.
- Many inmates have to choose between health care and basic necessities like soap, toothpaste and clean undergarments – necessities that are connected to improved health.
- The state can take money away from inmates to pay for the cost of incarceration, leaving them with few or no resources to be successful upon release.

What HB5104 does:

- **Eliminates** \$5 medical co-pay.
- **Restricts to 10%** the allowable upcharge on commissary goods.
- **Ends assessing inmates to pay for the cost of their** incarceration.



Why Illinois should abolish prison co-pays, upcharge, and wage garnishment:

Prison co-pays are dangerous and cost-inefficient.

- Co-pays result in inmates—who are often ill equipped to make nuanced medical decisions—avoiding care when there is medical **need**.
- Failure to seek care leads to utilization of more expensive acute care. Conditions that are inexpensive to treat if caught early can worsen when untreated.
- Co-pays are shown to contribute to disease spread,¹ increased deaths and hospitalizations,² and—in the case of Illinois prisons—costly litigation.³
- Co-pay revenue in Illinois for FY17 is estimated to be approximately \$400,000 – a small fraction of IDOC’s annual health care costs.
- Some states have abolished prison co-pays based on data showing that the cost of administering and processing co-pays resulted in a net financial loss for the state.

Support HB5104 and abolish prison co-pay and other fees!

¹ "Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus Infections in Correctional Facilities—Georgia, California, and Texas, 2001-2003." *Infectious Diseases in Clinical Practice* 12, no. 3 (May, 2004): 202-203.

² Ku, Leighton and Victoria Wachino. *The Effect of Increased Cost-Sharing in Medicaid: A Summary of Research Findings*, 2005.

³ See *Lippert v. Baldwin*