

Media Advisory



...from State Representative Sara Feigenholtz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz

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Rep. Feigenholtz Calls for Hearings on AIDS Drug Assistance Program, HIV Prevention, Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening funding shortfalls

Chicago, IL – State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago), Chair of the Human Services Appropriations Committee, and members of the House Appropriations Human Services Committee will meet on Friday, January 22, in Room 16-504 of the James R Thompson Center from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. to discuss funding shortfalls in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) and HIV prevention programs. ADAP is experiencing unprecedented growth due primarily to job loss and the economy. Additionally, the committee will discuss the funding problems facing the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program.

“The AIDS Drug Assistance Program is a lifeline for over 4,000 low-income, uninsured people every month, but demand for the program is skyrocketing,” Feigenholtz said. “The need to maintain ADAP has forced the state to cut back on funding for HIV prevention services, which will only result in more HIV cases and more uninsured people who need ADAP. We need a balanced and sustainable solution to this public health emergency.”

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) currently administers the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, ADAP, and HIV prevention programs. All programs are aimed at helping Illinois residents secure access to health care. IDPH estimates nearly 3,000 clients use ADAP services each month accessing 8,500 prescriptions, including Matt Appleman from Dixon, IL, who turned to ADAP because health insurance companies refused to sell him insurance coverage due to his HIV status.

“My HIV medications cost over \$20,000 a year, but that’s what keeps me healthy and able to run my business,” said Appleman, who will testify Friday. “If I couldn’t get HIV medications through ADAP, I’d probably get so sick that I’d have to shut down my business and go on disability. I’d get HIV meds, but I’d have lost everything else.”

What:	House Appropriations Human Service Committee Hearing on AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), HIV prevention funding & the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) .
Who:	State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, Chairperson House Appropriation Human Services Committee House Appropriation Human Services Committee Members
When:	Friday, January 22, 2010 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
Where:	James R. Thompson Center, Room 16-504 100 W. Randolph Street, Chicago, IL

For more information, please contact Feigenholtz’s District Office at (773) 296-4141.

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