



Rep. Sara Feigenholtz seeks Illinois budget predictability for state vendors

[David Ormsby](#), Springfield Political Buzz Examiner

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(Chicago, IL) – A top Illinois budget lawmaker today said state budget “predictability” for state vendors, such as Illinois human service providers, will be a top priority as Illinois leaders begin drafting next year’s fiscal plan.

“What I think is important from the standpoint of a small business or a non-profit is predictability,” said State Rep. **Sara Feigenholtz** (D-Chicago), Chair of the Illinois House Human Services Appropriations Committee.

“And that is one thing that we have done a very bad job at,” Feigenholtz noted.

During the last several years Illinois has dramatically cut human serving funding by as much as 50% in some programs only to reverse course and restore the money within a few weeks or months.

Additionally, the state payment-billing cycle can swing wildly from three months to six months once an invoice is submitted to Illinois authorities.

“If we can say to our mental health providers, substance abuse providers and others that we will pay you every 42 days, every six months or whatever, at least they will know where they are standing,” said Feigenholtz.

“Predictability is very important when it comes to our human service providers in Illinois.”

Next year, the Illinois budget will continue to present problems to lawmakers.

The state’s combined [pension](#) and debt payments - \$5.9 billion and \$3.2 billion - total \$9.1 billion, which will consume nearly 30% of the state’s \$32.2 billion budget coming from its general revenue fund. Those costs will exceed the [\\$6.8 billion](#) estimated to be generated from the income tax increase enacted by lawmakers earlier in the year.

Meanwhile, Feigenholtz pledged to work with top Illinois political leaders to deliver budget “predictability.”

“I’m going to be working with the comptroller, the treasurer, the legislative leadership and state agencies,” said Feigenholtz.

Lawmakers return to Springfield on January 31, 2012.