

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IPADD (Illinois Parents of Adults with Developmental Disabilities) calls for Illinois to immediately revise its Medicaid eligibility system.

Illinois Medicaid recipients have been particularly hard-hit by Medicaid enrollment issues. Thousands of low-income, often disabled, Illinoisans have been incorrectly terminated from Medicaid because of computer errors in the new Integrated Eligibility System (IES) computer system, which cost the state \$193 million to implement. The result has been life-threatening disruptions in their healthcare coverage, pharmaceutical benefits, mental health coverage, and personal care benefits.

The District of Columbia and the following thirty-three states allow the Social Security Administration (SSA) to determine Medicaid eligibility using Supplemental Security Income (SSI) criteria and to enroll SSI recipients in the Medicaid system: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. These states have a "1634 agreement" with SSA.

Illinois is a "209(b) state," named after section 209(b) of the Social Security Amendments of 1972, which gave states the option of using their own criteria for Medicaid. Illinois should abandon its 209(b) status in favor of becoming a 1634 state, bringing it in line with the surrounding states of Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Wisconsin. Research shows that 209(b) states have significantly higher Medicaid expenditures per recipient than states providing automatic eligibility.

Illinois Representative Greg Harris, Assistant Majority Leader in the House and Chairperson of the Appropriations Human Services Committee, states: "The Rauner administration has spent hundreds of millions of tax dollars to hire corporate consultants to create systems to intentionally deny healthcare to our most frail seniors and people with disabilities. It is just more of their legacy of punishing the elderly, disabled children & adults, and vulnerable populations across Illinois."

Illinois advocates can no longer place trust in the state to determine Medicaid eligibility. We ask for the state of Illinois to become the thirty-fourth state in the nation to allow the Social Security Administration to determine Medicaid eligibility for its citizens.

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IPADD was co-founded in 2006 by Laurie Jerue and Ellen Garber Bronfeld, both mothers of adults with a developmental disability. IPADD has since grown to more than 2,800 members. From the beginning, the organization has been grounded in the philosophy that every person with a developmental disability can lead safe, meaningful, and connected lives in their community.

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