

VOTE YES ON HB 2800

House sponsor: Flowers-Andrade-Soto-Gabel-Feigenholtz

COMMON SENSE LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF MOTHERS AND BABIES IN ILLINOIS' MOST HIV VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES.

HB 2800, sponsored by Rep. Mary Flowers (D-Chicago) amends the Perinatal HIV Prevention Act to expand testing among HIV vulnerable pregnant mothers, adding in a third trimester HIV test in addition to the first trimester test. The third trimester test ensures that medical providers identify HIV infections in pregnant mothers before delivery and reduces the instances of HIV transmission from mother to baby. This amendment will expand the safety net for HIV vulnerable mothers and babies, and is vital in the mission to completely eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission.

Why should a pregnant mother be tested for HIV at all?

- If an HIV infection occurs during pregnancy, the risk of transmitting the virus from mother to the baby is very high, and pregnant women are at greater risk of transmitting HIV to their infants if they acquire HIV during pregnancy.
- A repeat test in the third trimester, in addition a test in the first trimester, will allow the medical community to identify if a pregnant mother has acquired HIV before delivery and connect her with perinatal HIV experts and treatment to reduce the viral load during pregnancy. This greatly improves the chances that the baby is born without HIV.

Why should a pregnant mother be tested for HIV in the third trimester if she already had a test in the first trimester?

- A negative HIV test in the first trimester does not guarantee that a pregnant mother will remain HIV negative throughout her pregnancy.
- Women may be more vulnerable to HIV acquisition during pregnancy because people are more likely to stop using condoms or other forms of protection if a woman is already pregnant.
- The **Centers for Disease Control** recommend a third trimester HIV test for high prevalence areas. Illinois is considered a high prevalence area because our statewide prevalence of HIV is 1% or greater.
- The **American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology** endorses the CDC's recommendations for third trimester HIV testing.
- Some mothers and babies simply fall through the cracks in our medical care system, and may not enter medical care until after the first trimester. In addition, some mothers with a negative first trimester HIV test result show up at delivery with an HIV infection.
 - Of the 20 cases of HIV transmission during pregnancy in the last seven years in Illinois, there have been seven confirmed cases of HIV in infants.
 - The estimated lifetime costs of caring for a newborn with HIV range between **\$350,000 and \$1,000,000**.
 - The additional third-trimester test is cost-effective and can be easily added to tests performed in the 3rd trimester in the doctor's office.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

ACLU of IL
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
EverThrive IL
IL Department of Public Health
IL Health & Hospital Association
Illinois NOW
IL Perinatal HIV Hotline
Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Mount Sinai Hospital
Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative
Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Test Positive Aware Network