

# News...

*...from the Illinois House of Representatives*

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

State Rep. Dan Beiser

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## **Beiser Supports Measure to Cut Costs, Maintain Health Care Services for Most Vulnerable Patients**

ALTON, Ill. – Continuing his efforts to cut health care costs while maintaining services, state Rep. Dan Beiser, D-Alton, recently supported legislation to save the state over \$400 million in the next fiscal year by reforming the Medicaid system.

“This measure helps nursing homes, hospitals and taxpayers through new efficiencies in Medicaid spending,” Beiser said. “The reforms help preserve the Medicaid system, which provides health care services at a much lower cost than in emergency room visits, through cost-saving measures and increased federal money. This is victory of low- and middle-income families across the state.”

Through a combination of rate reductions, efforts to streamline Medicaid eligibility and purchasing and increased federal funds, Senate Bill 788 implements a variety savings for the state in the next fiscal year. Hospitals and nursing homes agreed to a 2.25 percent reduction in their reimbursement rate, which will save the state nearly \$160 million. The Department of Health and Family Services is working to move eligible individuals to Medicaid, which will bring in an additional \$200 million to pay for health care services. Beiser also supported smaller cost-saving measures including developing a plan to re-enroll qualified Medicaid patients and allowing state agencies more flexibility to purchase medical supplies.

“Legislators supporting Senate Bill 788 enable hospitals to continue providing high quality health care services in communities across the state,” said Illinois Hospital Association President & CEO Maryjane Wurth. “We appreciate their recognition that steps can be taken to control spending without sacrificing needed patient care.”

For more information, please contact Beiser’s constituent service office at 618-465-5900.

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