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Illinois Patients, Providers and Community Leaders Rally at 340B ACTION Day to Call on Illinois House to Advance Lifesaving Patient Protections

CHICAGO — February 2, 2026 — Nearly 1,000 patients, health care providers, community leaders, and lawmakers from across Illinois gathered Sunday, February 1 for a powerful **340B ACTION Day** at 3401 West Roosevelt Road in Chicago, uniting to celebrate the lifesaving impact of the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program and to urge lawmakers to protect and strengthen this vital patient lifeline.

Hosted by health care and community leaders from across the state, the event celebrated how 340B helps community health centers and safety net hospitals provide affordable medications and essential services to patients who otherwise would go without care. From cancer treatment and chronic disease management to behavioral health, maternal care, and “meds-to-beds” programs that ensure patients leave the hospital with prescriptions in hand, 340B is a cornerstone of Illinois’ health care safety net.

Speakers at the celebration presented the immense impact that 340B has on our communities:

- Three patients shared how access to discounted medications made the difference between life and death.
- Community health center leaders from Lawndale Christian Health Center, Access Community Health Network, and Family Christian Health Center described how 340B funds their health centers and without, they will be forced to make decisions that could include closing clinics and cutting services.
- Hospital CEO, Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Sinai Chicago, discussed the impact of 340B on safety-net hospitals.
- Multiple state legislators urged action in Springfield including Representative LaShawn Ford, Representative Anna Moeller, State Senator Lakesia Collins and Congressman Danny K. Davis.

“Without 340B, I would not be able to access my medications, and my new address would be the cemetery,” said Perla Herrera, a patient speaker. “This program doesn’t just save money — it saves lives.”

Illinois providers warn that recent actions by pharmaceutical manufacturers are undermining the program by restricting how and where discounted medications can be dispensed. These unilateral limits

have already reduced savings for many hospitals and clinics, forcing difficult choices and threatening access for patients in rural, urban, and suburban communities alike.

Advocates praised the Illinois Senate for taking a critical step last spring by advancing the bill, legislation designed to protect patient access to 340B medications by preventing manufacturers from interfering with hospitals' and community health centers' pharmacy partnerships. The bill restores the long-standing structure of the program and ensures that patients can fill prescriptions in their own communities.

Representative Anna Moeller, the sponsor of **HB 2371 SAM2**, explained how the Senate recognized what is at stake and passed the bill in the Senate last year. She went on to explain that now is the time for the Illinois House to act on this "zero-cost solution" to the state that protects patients, stabilizes the health care safety net, and keeps care close to home.

Community leaders underscored that 340B is not an abstract policy — it is a daily reality for Illinois residents managing chronic illness, for seniors on fixed incomes, for parents caring for children with complex needs, and for communities facing historic inequities in access to care.

The rally concluded with a unified call for action: Advance **HB 2371 SAM2** in the Illinois House during this legislative session and Vote Yes when the bill goes to the floor.

As costs rise and vital resources are cut, the need for 340B has never been greater. ACTION Day sent a clear message: Illinois must stand with patients and the providers who serve them.

"340B saves lives," said Dr. James Brooks, CEO at Lawndale Christian Health Center. "And Illinois has the opportunity — right now — to make sure it continues to do so."

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