

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL

The Healthcare Council brings together a unique collaboration of diverse leaders both directly and indirectly involved in our healthcare system to advance solutions that promote an affordable, accessible, efficient and high quality healthcare system in Illinois.

A TRUSTED ADVOCATE AND AN INNOVATIVE LEADER

The Healthcare Council members serve as the Chamber's primary resource for responding to and influencing healthcare policy at both the state and federal levels. The Council has built a respected brand in Springfield and amongst other advocacy organizations for its credible and thoughtful responses to policy issues thanks to the diverse intellectual capital and experience of its members. The Council's influence, however, extends beyond the boundaries of public policy and includes partnerships with public and private organizations and entities to help educate and advance initiatives that improve the health and well-being of employers, employees and all individual and families across the state.

LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE POLICY

The members of the Healthcare Council are leaders in their fields who have a broader, vested interest in state policies. Our members are always consulted on the various legislative and regulatory discussions that come up in Illinois and inform the Chamber on if, and how, we can use our resources to assist on an issue.

YOUR CONNECTION TO HEALTHCARE FIELD

The depth and breadth of the Healthcare Council continues to grow and members are contacting each other to find business and government relations synergies they wouldn't otherwise have discovered. We're the only "table" in the state that brings together such a wide array of companies in our diverse healthcare system.

PROVIDING VALUE

"As the largest hospital in the state, Northwestern Memorial Hospital has been a member of the Chamber's Healthcare Council since its inception. The Healthcare Council is a productive forum that gives us the opportunity to meet and work collaboratively with officials in the industry, from hospitals to insurance companies and small business owners. Our collaboration with the Council has been a real asset."

"It is exceptionally helpful to have someone outside the hospital industry working closely with us who understands our issues. The Chamber, with its broad coalition of businesses, has and continues to be an invaluable partner and advocate."

*Rob Chitale
Northwestern Memorial Healthcare*

SPRINGFIELD'S LEADING GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

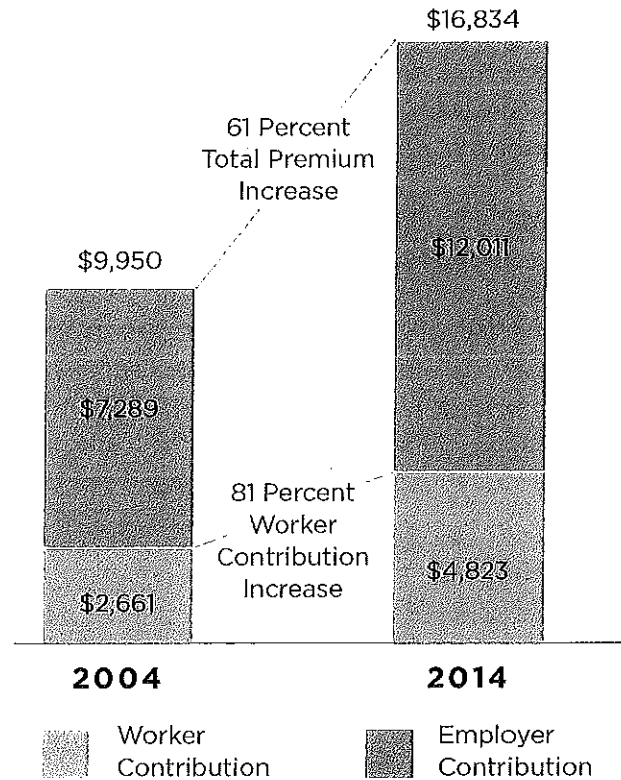
Our experienced government affairs professionals keep an eye on proposed legislation and track it so members can focus on when and where to get involved. We also collaborate with your lobbying team and, to the extent possible, the other representing organizations in Springfield to help our members stay informed on all issues healthcare and non-healthcare related.

YOUR "THIRD-PARTY" VOICE

We provide assistance with institution-specific issues (via letters to the editor, media interviews and meetings) to bring a big picture voice to the discussion and help provide needed perspective on local or regional issues/controversies every company and institution faces from time to time.

The Healthcare Council advocates and advances solutions that promote an affordable, accessible, efficient and high-quality healthcare system in Illinois. With the ever rising cost of health insurance premiums, 69% over the last 10 years to be exact, it's imperative that we work towards affordable yet innovative and sustainable solutions through the guidance of our members. The cost of healthcare has a direct impact on employers through the cost of health insurance premiums. As healthcare costs rise, so do health insurance premiums, eliminating investment opportunities that could otherwise be made on additional employees or products. As we develop innovative solutions to reduce healthcare costs, such as prevention oriented care, the number of employees in the workforce will increase while also becoming more efficient. Member involvement in developing these innovative solutions is key to our success and the preservation of the current healthcare system.

AVERAGE ANNUAL HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND WORKER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FAMILY COVERAGE



Source: Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits, 2005-2015



STACI WILSON

Staci Wilson was named executive director of the Healthcare Council in early 2015. She has an extensive background working for the legislature. Her unique perspective on the inner workings of state government makes her a valuable resource in promoting the Healthcare Council's objectives.



ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Healthcare Council Priorities:

- Engage members of the healthcare and employer communities in an effort to seek and promote innovative approaches to lowering healthcare costs while enhancing quality
- Empower employers to identify and adopt value-based healthcare coverage strategies
- Promote employer and community partnerships to strengthen involvement and influence of healthcare quality and wellness and prevention initiatives.

The Healthcare Council serves as a significant state policy resource rich in intellectual capital representing a broad, diversified cross-section of the healthcare community. The mission of the Council is to leverage its membership to promote activities and actions that secure affordable, accessible, efficient, high quality healthcare for employers and consumers in Illinois.

The Council continues to oppose health insurance mandates, pursue flexible healthcare solutions to meet our state's needs, and provide resources to employers regarding any and all changes that will impact them under the ACA and subsequent federal/state rules and regulations.

The Healthcare Council continues to monitor other key issues which could arise this year such as discussions around innovation waivers, step therapy and pharmaceutical drug costs. The Council will also ensure that data security breach legislation making its way through the statehouse will continue to include provisions which protect consumers from data breaches, identity theft, fraud or illegal cyberattacks, but to do so in a balanced manner which would not be unnecessarily expansive and burdensome to business if there is no identified consumer risk of harm.

As a gubernatorial appointee to the Healthy Illinois 2021 Council, the executive director represents employer issues and concerns in developing the state's health improvement plan, which focuses on the state's health priorities and strategies for improvement.

The majority of Americans get their health care through employers. With escalating costs, providing benefits to employees has become a bottom line issue for employers. The Healthcare Council is a pro-business forum that gives members the opportunity to meet and work collaboratively with a unique collaboration of diverse leaders both directly and indirectly involved in our healthcare system. We will continue to provide resources and timely updates on healthcare policy action items at the state and federal level.