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**CONTACT:** Nick Desideri [desiderin@seiu1.org](mailto:desiderin@seiu1.org) 630-779-5510

# Forward Illinois Coalition Outlines Progressive Agenda for 102nd Illinois General Assembly

*Illinois needs bold solutions to address unprecedented COVID-19 crisis and promote a just recovery*

**SPRINGFIELD** - Today, members of Forward Illinois - a coalition of major advocacy organizations and labor unions united around a progressive vision for Illinois - released a progressive policy agenda for lawmakers ahead of the 102nd General Assembly session, which starts Wednesday, January 13. As our country and our state continue to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, Forward Illinois urges state lawmakers to take bold, progressive actions to address this crisis head on.

These agenda items are crucial to promote a just recovery and move our communities forward towards a better future, across racial lines and different backgrounds. Elected leaders must protect the health and safety of all Illinoisans and promote racial justice, equity and economic empowerment for Black and brown communities hit the hardest by this global crisis.

Forward Illinois members urge lawmakers in the upcoming session to:

- Expand workers' rights, including a guaranteed right to join or form a union free from employer interference.
- Guarantee reproductive rights and health equity, to ensure access to a full range of reproductive health care, including abortion.
- Fight for environmental justice, with clean water for all and Illinois moving to 100% clean, renewable energy.
- Reform the legal system using a restorative justice framework to reduce police presence in communities, foster humane conditions in jails and prisons, and to find alternatives to incarceration.
- Ensure universal access to high-quality affordable and affirming health care, provided by moving toward Medicare for All.

- Guarantee all youth have access to LGBTQ-affirming personal health and safety education in all Illinois public schools and that LGBTQ Illinoisans, especially trans and gender non-conforming people, can access facilities and programming that allow them to participate fully, fairly, and safely in life.
- End deportations and provide a pathway to citizenship with access to health care, education and other supports for everyone in the US regardless of immigration status.
- Treat gun violence as a public health crisis and work to pass live-saving policies that will protect and heal impacted communities.
- Fully fund education in Illinois in every school district, while making sure higher education is affordable.
- Enact progressive and fair solutions to balance the budget in a way that preserves, protects and expands essential services and uses progressive revenue measures that do not balance the budget on the back of low-income and/or Black and brown communities.

Forward Illinois members include Equality Illinois, Sierra Club Illinois Chapter, Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, Gun Violence Prevention PAC, Local 881 UFCW, Citizen Action, Chicago Votes, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, SEIU Illinois State Council and SEIU Healthcare Illinois Indiana.

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