

**SUPPORT HB 2628 and SB 1498
Medical Reserve Corps Liability Protection**

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Description of the legislative initiative

Amends the Good Samaritan Act to provide liability protection for Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps members assisting certified local health departments during emergencies that are not declared disasters.

The Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps was established under federal law to ensure an adequate supply of licensed, credentialed trained healthcare volunteers in case of a federal, state, local or tribal public health emergency.

Practical example of what this would accomplish

All Illinois residents are protected by certified local health departments that respond to outbreaks of infectious disease in the community. Large numbers of people may be affected and need care, such as vaccinations, as occurred during the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak.

Local Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps members are nurses, dentists, doctors, and pharmacists licensed and credentialed in Illinois. By joining the Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps these individuals also receive training in Incident Command and Emergency Preparedness.

Currently these healthcare professionals would have no liability protection while volunteering to assist a certified local health department to control the spread of infectious disease.

Financial impact of the concern without legislative action

If liability coverage is not clearly provided for credentialed personnel serving in a Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps, local governments will find it difficult to recruit critical qualified assistance.

Legal opinion

This proposed legislative liability protection for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers would be similar to liability protection for a public paramedic on a call available through the Emergency Medical Services Act. The proposed legislation is an important step towards ensuring that trained professionals are able to assist their communities.

Entities/ organizations in support of the legislation

American Heart Association
American Stroke Association
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Academy of General Dentistry
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists
Illinois Department of Public Health
Illinois Fire Chiefs Association
Illinois Municipal League
Illinois Nurses Association
Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing
Illinois State Dental Society
Illinois State Medical Society
Medical Reserve Corps Illinois
Northern Illinois Association of Fire Protection Districts
Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium
Northwest Municipal Conference
UIC Dental Medicine Responder and Technology (DMRT) Office, College of Dentistry
Southern Illinois Public Health Consortium

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