WHAT IS THE HEAL ACT?
The Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Act is a proposal that will help Illinois families live healthier lives with revenue from a small tax on sugary drinks. The proposal is estimated to raise more than $600 million in the first year, investing about $300 million in the Medicaid program to expand prevention and prevent cuts to health care services for low-income Illinoisans. The HEAL Act also invests about $300 million in improved access to affordable, healthy foods and increased opportunities for physical activity in communities across Illinois.

THERE IS STRONG AND BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL IN ILLINOIS:
- By more than a 2-1 margin (65% to 30%) voters across the state support funding Medicaid and community health with a tax on sugary drinks:
  - 70% of Chicagoans
  - 73% of Suburban Cook County residents
  - 59% of Collar County residents
  - 62% of Downstate residents
- 58% of voters still support the proposal even when presented with opposing arguments
- Support is found across all demographic groups:
  - 75% of African Americans
  - 65% of Latinos
  - 63% of Whites
  - 63% of Men
  - 68% of Women
  - 80% of Democrats
  - 63% of Men
  - 56% of Independents
  - And nearly a majority of Republicans (47%)
- Voters strongly support the proposal because the revenue is targeted to health; there is significantly less support if the sugary-drink tax revenues go for general purposes:
  - 70% do not want to see cuts in Medicaid
  - 84% support more access to healthy foods at farmers markets and grocery stores
  - 80% support health education in schools and communities
  - 76% support adding more coverage for preventive care in Medicaid
  - 74% support adding more coverage of chronic health problems like diabetes and heart disease in Medicaid
  - 72% support building biking and walking trails in communities

THE HEAL ACT CAN HELP THE ECONOMY & FUTURE ILLINOIS BUDGETS:
- Obesity related diseases cost Illinois over $6 billion a year, including $1 billion in the state Medicaid program. Preventing obesity-related diseases through investments like those made in the HEAL Act will help save money in Medicaid and for all payers in the years ahead.
- The HEAL Act also invests in community initiatives like healthier school lunches, safe places for children to play and more affordable fresh fruits and vegetables in low-income communities, which can also help the state save money for years to come.
- Research shows the HEAL Act would have no net negative impact on jobs, and could create a net statewide increase of 4,500 jobs.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE HEAL ACT?
Champion the HEAL Act as part of the FY2016 budget package when talking with your colleagues who are working on the budget. Insist that the revenues be targeted to health as outlined in the HEAL Act. That is why Illinois voters support the measure.
ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE HEAL ACT INCLUDE:

A Just Harvest
Active Transportation Alliance
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
ALAS - Wings
American Cancer Society - Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Nurses Association - Illinois Chapter
Center for Tax and Budget Accountability
Champaign County Health Care Consumers
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District - Division of Wellness and Health Promotion
Chicago Department of Public Health - Policy, Planning and Legislative Affairs
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Coalition of African, Arab, Asian, European and Latino Immigrants of IL
Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children
DeKalb Community Gardens
Esperanza Health Centers
Evanston Health Advisory Council
EverThrive Illinois
Experimental Station / LinkUP Illinois
Howard Brown Community Center
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
Illinois Action for Children
Illinois African American Coalition for Prevention
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators
Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Farm to School [Seven Generations Ahead endorsed]
Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (INCCRA)
Illinois Physical Therapy Association
Illinois Primary Health Care Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Public Health Institute
Illinois Rural Health Association
Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nurses
Illinois Society of Public Health Educators (SOPHE)
Illinois State Dental Society
Lake County Health Department
League of Illinois of Bicyclists
McLean County Wellness Coalition
McLean Wellness (Bloomington Public Schools - Food Service)
Metro South Medical Center
National Kidney Foundation
Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium
Ounce of Prevention Fund
Proviso Partners for Health
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
SEIU Healthcare Illinois, Indiana
Seven Generations Ahead
The Children’s Health Center, S.C.
Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center
Warren Community School District 205

(List in formation)

POLL DESCRIPTION

The poll was conducted by Anzalone Liszt Grove Research (ALG), a national public opinion research firm, and commissioned by the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity. Anzalone Liszt Grove conducted n=600 live telephone interviews on landline and cellphones with likely 2016 voters in Illinois. Interviews were conducted May 17-20, 2015. Respondents were selected at random and interviews were apportioned demographically and geographically. Expected margin of sampling error is ± 4.0% at the 95% level of confidence and higher for subgroups.

For more information, contact the Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity at (312) 850-4744.