

The Never-Regular But Always-True Newsletter From...



ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

www.aclu-cu.org April 2024

Dear Members, Supporters, Friends and Allies,

Here at ACLU of Champaign County we are celebrating our most exciting victory of the past year.

Working in coalition with allied organizations, ACLU succeeded in ending money bond in Illinois on September 18, 2023. We are the first and only state in the nation to accomplish this important reform!

There were plenty of naysayers who said it wouldn't work and lots of disinformation. **So, how's the big change going?**

JOIN US on Friday, April 12 from 5-7 PM at the IMC (Independent Media Center) for a short and sweet celebration of one half year of progress!

Hear directly from our Champaign County Public Defender, Lis Pollock, for the local perspective, as well as Ben Ruddell from ACLU of Illinois for a statewide view. Real live in-person humans! Real, not virtual snacks! Hope to see you there!

What else are we working on? Improving outcomes for youth in foster care in Illinois. Still at this...

YOU CAN HELP! ASK YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS TO SUPPORT THE KIND ACT. SB 3308 and HB 4781.

For too long, Illinois has placed unnecessary hurdles in the way for family members to take in a child when they are removed from a household by DCFS. The KIND Act requires that DCFS provide family caregivers with the same level of financial support that foster homes receive, and provide post-placement supports to family guardians similar to supports provided to adoptive families.

This bill is urgently needed. More than 10,000 youth in DCFS care live with relatives. At least 60% of these youth are unnecessarily denied the foster care benefits they would be entitled to if they were living in a foster home.

FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR LEGISLATIVE AGENDA [HERE](#).

And keep in mind: Urbana Champaign Reproductive Justice Week April 19-28 <https://www.ucrj.org/ucrjweek2024>

WANT TO JOIN OR RENEW YOUR ACLU MEMBERSHIP? <https://action.aclu.org/give/illinois-join-renew-today>

FIND US AT www.aclu-cu.org

THANKS for reading and Supporting ACLU Champaign County!