

Forefront is Illinois' statewide membership alliance for over 50,000 operating nonprofits and grant-making institutions, which employ ~600,000 people and constitute 11% of our state's economy. We represent community foundations, family foundations, corporate/private foundations, and public foundations that may be directly impacted by SB2930. Similarly, Equality Illinois, which led the introduction of SB2930, is a valued stakeholder, and Forefront firmly supports their mission in Illinois.

Forefront proactively works to support racial equity within our own organization and across the nonprofit sector. Forefront itself is a Black and Brown led organization at both the Board and Executive levels, and our strategic plan prioritizes advancing racial equity in Illinois. In pursuit of this goal:

- The Forefront Library had over 200 engagements with grant-makers in 2023, providing research, best practices and resources needed to advance racial equity in philanthropy.
- In 2023, the Forefront library prioritized and provided well over 800 prospect research and fundraising resources and specialized trainings to small nonprofits who have been historically marginalized or who remain(ed) subject to racial, social, or economic injustice.
- Forefront's Equitable Access and Capacity Initiative (EACI) was created to support nonprofits led by and serving People of Color that are pursuing or managing government funding.
- Forefront recently launched the inaugural Racial Equity Collective Cohort, which will provide financial and technical support to nonprofit leaders that are working to advance racial equity in their communities all over the state.
- Forefront remains staunchly committed to advancing racial equity in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Affirmative Action. That decision had a ripple effect in the nonprofit sector, but we and others remain determined to continue supporting racial equity work. Many funders are in fact doubling down on that commitment, even shoring up for inevitable lawsuits as they do so.

SB2930 was first introduced as SB1501/HB3139 in 2023. Forefront negotiated the original proposal closely with Equality Illinois over last year. The provisions of SB2930 address many of our prior concerns, and **we'd like to highlight some key points as you consider this proposal:**

- We reached out to hundreds of foundation leaders about this bill. Many have expressed confusion about the intent of this bill, when so many of them already voluntarily list board members on their website. A statement of intent in the bill, or on the floor, may help.
- The bill does not have an enforcing agency or require any type of aggregated report that can be used to generate a trendline or convey progress.
- Nonprofit foundation board members, in contrast private sector/corporate board members, are generally volunteers and are usually not compensated for their work. Public policy should support and not discourage volunteerism in our communities.
- Some concerns about the individual safety and privacy of members of very small boards, especially in small towns, persist, since even in the aggregate, individual information may be identifiable.

Forefront is a willing partner in your efforts to make sound public policy to create a more equitable Illinois. Please contact me with any questions if you'd like more information.

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