



Patrick J. Joyce

Illinois

Senator, SD-040 (D)

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IL Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote

Vote

1. **HB1373 National Firearms Tracing** (passed 43 to 11 on 5/31/2025). Directs Illinois law enforcement to use the National Tracing Center's (NTC) eTrace platform. **YES**
✗

2. **HB2568 Homosexual Parentage** (passed 36 to 19 on 5/29/2025). Would recognize parent-child relationships "without regard to the marital status, age, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation of the child's parents, or the circumstances of the child's birth." **YES**
✗

3. **HB3489 Taxpayer-funded Abortion** (passed 41 to 16 on 5/22/2025). Allows pharmacists to prescribe Medicaid-covered "emergency contraception" to patients. **YES**
✗

4. **SB1560 Universal "Mental Health" Screening in Schools** (passed 52 to 0 on 4/11/2025). Requires school districts to offer "mental health screenings" to all students annually, beginning in 3rd grade. **YES**
✗

5. **SB1675 "Gender Neutrality" in the Military** (passed 56 to 0 on 4/9/2025). Removes gender-specific language from the Illinois Code of Military Justice, including "conduct unbecoming an officer *and a gentleman*." **YES**
✗

6. **SB1932 Disaster-area Price Controls** (passed 41 to 7 on 4/4/2025). Provides that it is an "unlawful practice" to sell consumer food items or goods, except "petroleum products," for an "unconscionably high" price increase of "20% or more" in a "designated disaster area." **YES**
✗

Scorecard Votes: 0%



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\$293,188

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 16, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. National Firearms Tracing

HB1373 directs Illinois law enforcement to use the National Tracing Center's (NTC) eTrace platform.

The eTrace platform is the firearm tracing system of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), an unconstitutional federal agency (see U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8). The federal government has no authority to engage in this activity (see U.S. Const., Amd. X). Further, Illinois' participation in the eTrace "collective data sharing program" enables government efforts to conduct mass surveillance, contribute to the creation of a national gun-owner database, and/or confiscate firearms from law-abiding citizens, in violation of the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Amendments.

2. Homosexual Parentage

HB2568 would recognize parent-child relationships without regard to "gender identity or sexual orientation of the child's parents."

Parental rights belong to the child's birth parents—not anyone else. No person has a right to sexually "groom" or abuse a child using the pretext of LGBTQ+ ideology. This bill would codify a radical version of the "best interests of the child" legislation, modeled after the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which seeks to rewrite U.S. family law entirely. Being contrary to the "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," the LGBTQ+ movement undermines self-government and the family. Parental rights, as with all other fundamental rights, are protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

3. Taxpayer-funded Abortion

HB3489 allows pharmacists to prescribe Medicaid-covered "emergency contraception."

"Emergency contraception," such as the "morning-after" pill (e.g., Plan B), functions as an abortifacient. Abortion is murder, and no person has a right to kill a preborn child, let alone tax their neighbor to pay for it. In addition, Medicaid is a unconstitutional federal-state program (see U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8). Given that the care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government, Illinois ought to abolish abortion completely. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and "unalienable" right mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and secured by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

4. Universal "Mental Health" Screening in Schools

SB1560 requires school districts to offer "mental health screenings" to all students annually, beginning in 3rd grade.

Universal "mental health" screenings in schools dangerously permit government intrusion into the most sensitive areas of a child's life, which rightly belong under the care and control of parents, not social workers. This legislation is designed to ultimately restrict a parent's ability to make medical decisions for their minor child (e.g., abortion, "gender-affirming" surgery) if that child is or claims to be experiencing "mental health conditions." Hence, critical race theorists, feminists, and transgender activists are some of its leading proponents. It's another reason why the best "school choice," by far, is for parents to choose not to place their child's education or overall well-being in the hands of the state. Parental rights cannot be secured with a compulsory, failing, and government-run school system.

5. "Gender Neutrality" in the Military

SB1675 removes gender-specific language from the Illinois Code of Military Justice, including "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman."

This bill replicates a "gender-neutral" modification to the Uniform Code of Military Justice made by a Democrat-led Congress in 2021, following President Joe Biden's executive order on "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce." The General Assembly has no business complying with "woke" DEI-policies to socially engineer an effeminate, egalitarian, or insubordinate culture in the armed forces. These changes have resulted in not only homosexuals serving openly within the ranks, but women in combat and transgendered troops. It's subversive of all order, discipline, and the very existence of the military itself.

6. Disaster-area Price Controls

SB1932 prohibits selling consumer food items or goods, except "petroleum products," for an "unconscionably high" price increase of "20% or more" in a "designated disaster area."

Price controls are unconstitutional. Price controls mean controlled profits, and controlled profits mean controlled products, controlled labor, and controlled people. As dishonest and manipulative tactics, they forcibly deny the constitutionally protected property rights of both businesses and consumers by violating their freedom of association—preventing individuals from making purchases and transactions voluntarily, according to their own terms. Ignoring the basic economic principles of supply and demand, they create an unequal balance of wealth confiscation and redistribution, hindering consumers from getting the best products at the best prices. The Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment were written to safeguard free-market enterprise.