

## Morthland Urges Illinois Not to Waive Welfare to Work Requirements

Written by Rep. Rich Morthland  
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Moline, IL... State Representative Rich Morthland (R-Cordova) introduced two pieces of legislation today aimed at maintaining Illinois' commitment to the work requirements for assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

Established in 1996, the program attempts to curb welfare dependence by encouraging recipients to move from welfare to work. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) indicated in July that it is willing to approve state waivers that reduce the participation requirements.

Morthland introduced House Bill 6223 which would prohibit Illinois from seeking a waiver.

"This legislation hits close to home," said Morthland. "My wife and I have seen first-hand the benefits the TANF program brings to our community and to our state. The program has resulted in a reduction of child poverty, a reduction in the welfare dependency, and an increase in employment earnings of single mothers."

Morthland also announced House Resolution 1218 which urges the Governor and the Illinois Secretary of the Department of Human Services to refuse to seek a waiver from HHS.

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“Welfare to Work is a good program that helps working families who want a piece of the American dream. It is important we hold Illinois to a higher standard and continue to offer job training, mentoring and educational opportunities to those in need.”