

### Legislative Visits Held in Washington and Joliet

October starts with a bang. Two successful legislative visits were held last week in Central and Northern Illinois. The Partners in Quality program continues to educate legislators on industry issues and show them the quality providers in their district.

**Stacy Brenton, Administrator of Washington Christian Village (Washington)** and residents and staff, hosted State Representative Keith Sommer (R-88<sup>th</sup> District; Morton). Jason Speaks represented LeadingAge Illinois during the visit.

The Village has been in Washington since 1962 and this was the first time the representative has visited in the last 15 years. He annually makes a couple visits to members in his district, but was pleased to be able to come back to Washington Christian recently. Brenton showed the representative the renovations that have taken place since his last time visiting. She has been the administrator for over 7 years. Sommer's wife, a therapist, has assisted residents at the Village. He also has a friend that resides there and got a chance to visit while taking a tour.

Sommer addressed a gathering of staff and residents and gave them background on his work in the Illinois General Assembly and current issues before the legislature, including the budget. He has been in the legislature for 18 years. He talked about the importance of quality healthcare. "As we get older and our family members get older, we understand more the importance of healthcare," said Sommer. He previously introduced legislation that would have given a tax credit for individuals with long term care insurance.

Brenton told him of the plans for a groundbreaking in 4-6 weeks for their new independent living. Sommer spoke of his appreciation for Washington Christian. "We can have all of the resources in the world, but without our health and the professionals that care for us, what do we have. I salute Washington Christian Village for all that they do," said Sommer.



Pictured Above (left to right): State Rep. Keith Sommer, Stacy Brenton, Administrator of Washington Christian Village and Jason Speaks of LeadingAge Illinois.

**Mary Jensen, Housing Manager of Joshua Arms of LSSI Senior Residence in Joliet**, and residents and staff hosted Senator Pat McGuire (D-43<sup>rd</sup> District; Crest Hill). Jason Speaks represented LeadingAge Illinois during the visit. The Senator addressed a large gathering of staff and residents, discussing issues such as Medicaid, MCOs and the state budget. He said he is currently evaluating and reviewing information on the MCOs. McGuire, whose wife taught nursing at Joliet Junior College, expressed his thanks to the staff for their hard work. He asked for a round of applause for the Joshua Arms staff.

After presenting on issues, he answered a number of resident questions and encouraged them to call him or his staff with concerns. After meeting with residents he was provided a tour. After the tour, he met with the staff on issues that directly impact providers. He was presented with a Partners in Quality Award for his work and commitment to advancing quality older adult care and services.



Pictured Above: (left to right): Greg Groves, Director of Facilities Management at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Mary Jensen, Manager of Joshua Arms, Senator Pat McGuire, Vaya C Nathaniel, Director of Property Management, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Jason Speaks, Manager of Policy and Communications at LeadingAge Illinois and Lisa Ingalls, Executive Director of Housing at Lutheran Social Services of Illinois.

If you would like to host a legislative visit, please contact [Jason Speaks](#). All members who hosted a visit in 2016 will be awarded for their grassroots advocacy at the A Legacy of Quality Legislative Luncheon in December.