



JB Pritzker, Governor
Paula A. Basta, M.Div., Director

*Respect for Yesterday
Support for Today
Plan for Tomorrow*

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Dear Aging Network:

Last month, Governor Pritzker, our constitutional officers and state legislators took the oath of office, ready to begin their new terms. I'm honored that in his second term, the Governor has once again put his faith in me to [continue to serve as IDoA Director](#), and I'm especially excited to be taking on new challenges alongside all of you.

Another announcement you may have heard from the Governor recently is that [the state's public health emergency will end on May 11, 2023, aligning the state with the federal government's decision to end the national public health emergency](#). With the ending of the public health emergencies (PHE), there will be a transition period as COVID-19 flexibilities and polices are re-evaluated or discontinued. Our team members here and at our sister agencies are diligently monitoring the ending of the state and national PHE, and I will distribute guidance and policy updates as we move forward with the resumption of normal operations.

COVID-19 has not disappeared, however. Through the Long Live Illinois campaign, IDoA continues to encourage older adults to get up to date on their boosters. Our contract with the strategic communications firm Kivvit will end in May, after which we will continue to share "evergreen" resources and materials promoting the value and effectiveness of vaccines and boosters. The Long Live Illinois campaign toolkits, including a new [multicultural edition](#), are available on our website. If you would like printed materials for an upcoming event, please email Aging.ILsenior@Illinois.gov, and we will be happy to coordinate the mailing or delivery of materials.

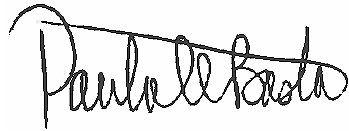
Looking ahead to this spring, April is National Volunteer Month, and IDoA would like to recognize some of the dedicated volunteers who uplift our Aging Network. Similarly to how the Pennsylvania Department of Aging [profiled Anna Mae Kerschner](#) on Facebook, we plan to feature volunteers on our social media channels throughout the month.

To submit a volunteer for recognition, please send a photo and brief description of their volunteer efforts to Aging.Communications@Illinois.gov by March 31. While they're on your mind, you may also want to consider nominating a volunteer for the [Senior Illinoisan Hall of Fame](#). Nominations to the Hall of Fame will be accepted through June 1.

Finally, please "save the date" for Older Americans Month 2023, the theme of which is *Aging Unbound*, offering an opportunity to explore diverse aging experiences and discuss how communities can combat stereotypes. Social media graphics and other resources from ACL are forthcoming, and we will also share a proclamation from Governor Pritzker designating May as Older Americans Month in Illinois.

As always, thank you for your dedication and commitment to Illinois' older adults. I hope you felt the love this week from your own loved ones, your community, and all of us here at IDoA.

Sincerely,



Paula Basta, M.Div.
Director, Illinois Department on Aging

The Illinois Department on Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with appropriate State and Federal statutes. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the **Senior HelpLine at (800) 252-8966; (888) 206-1327 (TTY)**



Illinois Department on Aging | One Natural Resources Way,, Suite 100, Springfield, IL 62702-1271

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