



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 4, 2006

For Further Information  
Contact: Laurence Msall  
(312) 201-9044

## CIVIC FEDERATION PRAISES ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR ELIMINATING SUBURBAN TUBERCULOSIS DISTRICT

*Group celebrates end of 3-year campaign to abolish unnecessary unit of government*

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(CHICAGO) – The Illinois General Assembly has passed Senate Bill 2654, which will dissolve the Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District and transfer the District's responsibilities and assets to Cook County.

The Civic Federation has been advocating since 2003 for the General Assembly to dissolve the District, which has a long track record of wasteful spending and excessive fund balances. The Federation's study, "A Call for the Elimination of the Suburban Cook County Tuberculosis Sanitarium District" can be found on the organization's website, [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org), under "Research Reports." The Civic Federation applauds the General Assembly for following through on the idea – which was first proposed by the Federation – and will allow the Cook County Department of Public Health to provide comprehensive, cost-effective medical care to suburban patients with tuberculosis.

"It is anachronistic for a separate unit of local government to manage a single disease," said Laurence Msall, President of The Civic Federation. "This is a victory for the taxpayers and government efficiency. We are very pleased the General Assembly has removed this excess tax burden from the shoulders of property owners in Cook County. We would like to give special thanks to the sponsors of the bill, Senator Don Harmon and Representative Elaine Nekritz, for their hard work in getting this legislation passed. We would also like to thank Cook County Board President John Stroger and the entire Cook County Board of Commissioners, who have also championed this bill."

Senate Bill 2654 abolishes the District's property tax levy and transfers all the District's assets and property tax base to Cook County. It requires the Cook County Department of Public Health to assume all responsibility for tuberculosis care in the District and develop a transition plan with the Board of Directors before the District is dissolved. The legislation further specifies that District employees will become employees of the County, requires the County to honor the lease agreements of the District, and authorizes the transfer of unimproved real estate to the Cook County Forest Preserve District.

"The Cook County Bureau of Health is fully prepared to integrate tuberculosis into the full range of medical services it already provides," said Msall. "Cook County's Department of Public Health has supported this bill because they know it makes sense medically and financially. We strongly encourage Governor Blagojevich to sign this bill, which will save taxpayers money and give patients the improved, comprehensive service they deserve."

*The Civic Federation is an independent, non-partisan government research organization founded in 1894. The Federation's membership includes business and professional leaders from a wide range of Chicago area corporations, professional service firms and institutions.*

\* Executive Committee  
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