



Jim Broadway

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## Illinois School News Service

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### Rauner profits from immigrant detention

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

Among the many companies in which Gov. Bruce Rauner is a partner or otherwise [holds a financial interest](#) is private equity fund that, according to the online publication [Politico](#), owns a billion-dollars-per-year for-profit healthcare provider company that churns huge profits from contracts with governments nationwide.

The magazine reported that Correct Care Solutions, the company, serves state and federal prisons, including the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention centers that have been in the news recently in relation to the Trump Administration's now-recinded policy of separating children from their families.

Like [other healthcare interests of Rauner's](#), Correct Care Solutions has been sued a good bit by folks who believe it is guilty of taking the money and neglecting to provide the care. But questions now being raised are more about a potential conflict arising from the interest Rauner has in events unfolding at the southern border.

Whereas other governors have announced that they would not respond if President Trump requests the deployment of national guard troops to that region, Rauner has declined to say whether he would send Illinois National Guard members to help deter immigration by refugees attempting to cross the border from Mexico.

**Notwithstanding the high-minded poetry** of Emma Lazarus, cast in bronze on a [plaque in the Statue of Liberty](#), the Trump administration has focused strenuously on "enforcing the law" against illegal immigration at the border, and federal officials have seemed pretty harsh and hard-hearted in that regard.

The question, raised by implication in the comments of sources to Politico articles is this: Does Rauner's financial interest in a company that owns Correct Care Solutions implicate him in that company's possibly illegal actions - or in the broader issue of federal policy in dealing with children and families at the border?

My sense is that such allegations are a stretch. [Rauner is not on the team](#). He has no direct involvement in decisions made by the healthcare service company, and his governance style implies that *he would not have agreed* with the Trump Administration's policy of separating innocent children from their parents.

There are plenty of reasons - *on the public record* - that would justify a voter's decision to oppose Rauner's reelection, without dreaming up foul linkages between him and [the president](#). (Rauner's budget obstinacy, for example, hurt Illinois businesses severely and will have damaged higher education for decades.)

**What about "Madigan's candidate," J.B. Pritzker?** The "dirt" on JB is also pretty meaningless. The negative impressions in his 14-minute FBI-taped phone [call with Gov. Rod Blagojevich](#) came from Blago's foul mouth. Pritzker did tell Blagovich he was interested in holding a state office, should it become vacant.

Brace yourself. Announcing such interest in conversations with authorities who can act on that information is a common practice in Illinois - and surely every other state. How else can the identities of interested parties be known. True, Pritzker did not distance himself from Blago's mindless pipe dreams, but so what?

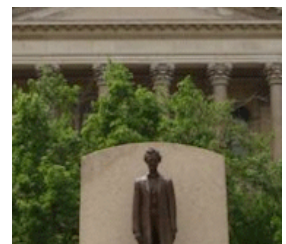
Did Democratic Party Chairman Michael [Madigan pick Pritzker to run](#) against Rauner? Probably, but so what? All that means is, if JB's elected, policy progress would likely be facilitated by peace between the second and third floors of the Capitol. Did [Rauner disparage downstate Illinois](#)? I don't think so - or care.

The question before the voters in November will be this: Which of the two candidates for governor would be more likely to govern in a manner that a voter should approve? They are very different candidates. Their visions of Illinois education also differ. (Rauner loves charter schools; Pritzker wants a moratorium on them.)

It is unfortunate that, between now and November, most of the communication on this contest will be of the negative variety. But there are reasons for that, reasons for which neither candidate is responsible. It is to be hoped, however, perhaps even expected, that *ISNS readers will focus on the substance*.

But what if (1) you're so disappointed with Rauner that you can't see straight, and (2) you just can't bring yourself to support another billionaire, especially one who conversed with Blago as if they were friends? I get it. [Here's a video clip](#), less than three minutes long, that may help. And [here's where it came from](#).

**A bill that's linked to brain science** is among the three dozen [School Code-amending measures](#) that have been certified by the legislative branch as having been passed in a constitutionally correct manner and are now on Rauner's desk for him to consider signing, vetoing or returning with recommendations for change.



[HB 4442](#) is a bill to combat child abuse, but it would achieve its effects in ways that are aligned with reality. It is based on the realities that (1) a child's abusers are often parents, (2) abuse usually begins early in life and (3) the effects of abuse can include brain damage that will permanently diminish the child's prospects in life.

The bill's "findings" section includes the fact that the [National Academy of Sciences](#) has "reported ... abuse can reshape a child's brain ..., influence the child's amygdala (the part of the brain that regulates emotions, particularly fear and anxiety, and change how the functioning prefrontal cortex works (the part of the brain responsible for thinking, planning, reasoning, and decision-making), which can lead to behavioral and academic problems...."

HB 4442 may be the first bill ever filed in Illinois - or in any state - that explains the cognitive functions of the amygdala and the prefrontal cortex. You've read such information in ISNS newsletters, of course. I would add only that the prefrontal cortex is vital to impulse control and is not fully developed until about age 25.

**What kinds of deficits result from child abuse?** The findings include NAS conclusions that "child maltreatment" is associated with "a broad range of social problems, including substance abuse, violence, criminal behavior, teenage pregnancy, anxiety, sexually transmitted diseases, smoking, obesity, and diabetes...." In fiscal terms, social responses to these consequences of child abuse are estimated to cost more than \$100 billion per year, nationally.

HB 4442 would do two things in the School Code. First, it would change current law on parenting education to require that ISBE "assist" school districts that offer "an evidence-based parenting education model." The nature of such assistance is not described in detail, but to be "evidence-based" is an emerging education concept.

The bill creates a pilot program involving high school level instruction that goes deep into the nature of families, their structure and how they operate, prevention of child abuse and "physical, mental, emotional, social, economic, and psychological aspects of interpersonal and family relationships."

A goal of the pilot project - for which ISBE would develop grant applications - would be "parenting education competency development that is aligned to the social and emotional learning standards of the student's grade level." The measure passed the Senate easily but faced [significant opposition in the House](#). Staunch conservatives often oppose initiatives that they believe will cause educators to meddle with matters of "family business."

(Coincidentally, the most recent issue of [Scientific American](#) includes a report of research finding that early life experience can actually alter the DNA sequence of the genome contained in brain cells. The implications of this are profound, since that DNA is what "distinguishes each of us as unique individuals.")

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