



Fact Sheet

Support SB 593 (Rep. Stava-Murray/Sen. Glowiak Hilton) Advancing Critical Healthcare Workforce Solutions

Task Force to Address Healthcare Workforce Shortages, Regulatory Barriers, and Retention Challenges

Issue: Illinois is facing a severe healthcare workforce crisis. Persistent workforce shortages, the constant changes in healthcare delivery, workplace violence, and retention challenges limit access to quality healthcare across the state. **IHA and the hospital community are advocating for commonsense legislation that was to convene stakeholders charged with identifying and recommending solutions to advance and promote a robust and skilled healthcare workforce that will ensure access to high quality healthcare for all Illinoisans.**

IHA Position: The COVID-19 pandemic intensified an already growing healthcare workforce shortage, making hiring more difficult and limiting access to care. During the pandemic, regulatory flexibilities allowed more than 25,000 highly trained healthcare professionals to contribute to the healthcare system—flexibilities that are no longer in place.

While studies have shown healthcare as a stalwart to the economy, Illinois faces significant shortages in key healthcare positions, like nurses. Additionally, regulatory challenges and unacceptable levels of violence against healthcare workers by patients and visitors contribute to staff turnover and recruitment challenges. These challenges make it increasingly difficult to build and sustain a strong healthcare workforce in Illinois, a reality that ultimately affects patients' access to care.

However, through recent actions, such as expanding access to foreign-trained physicians and Illinois operationalizing a new state-of-the-art licensure system, opportunities do exist to find creative and collaborative approaches to improve the healthcare workforce environment in the state.

In response, IHA is advocating for the establishment of a Health Care Workforce Task Force—bringing together key stakeholders to identify solutions and develop policies that support recruitment, retention, and equitable, high-quality healthcare for all Illinoisans.

As passed unanimously out of the Senate, SB 593 creates the Illinois Health Care Workforce Task Force to convene representatives from the General Assembly, state agencies, the healthcare industry, organized labor, and healthcare education professionals. The Task Force will be charged with submitting a report with recommendations to:

- **Evaluate workforce policies** and recommend changes to improve recruitment and retention.
- **Assess the capabilities of the state's new online licensure system** to enhance the experience of healthcare workers and use data to better drive policy decisions.
- **Identify grant and funding opportunities** for healthcare workforce pipeline programs that will ensure the workforce is ready to tackle the ever-changing healthcare landscape.
- **Develop strategies to reduce workplace violence** against healthcare workers.
- **Review policies and suggest opportunities** to reduce barriers for underrepresented populations to create a more inclusive healthcare workforce.
- **Recommend policy changes** that will lead to all Illinoisans getting the right care at the right time.