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**Illinois Hospital Leaders to Meet with State Legislators on
Wednesday to Advocate for Key Healthcare Priorities**
*Hospital Advocacy Day to Focus on Protecting Medicaid Funding, Addressing the
Workforce Crisis, and Preserving Access to Care*

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois hospital and health system leaders are calling on the General Assembly to support healthcare by prioritizing policies to preserve the state’s investment in hospitals, mitigate workforce-related staffing issues, and protect the 340B program, which provides life-saving medications and services for Illinois’ most vulnerable population.

On Wednesday, April 30, nearly 100 leaders of hospitals and health systems from across the state will meet with legislators from their respective districts during Hospital Advocacy Day organized by the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA).

“Hospitals are facing unprecedented pressures, and we must work together on solutions that ensure timely access to care, strengthen Illinois’ healthcare workforce, and ensure patients are getting the life-saving medications and services they need,” said A.J. Wilhelmi, IHA President and CEO. “Thank you to Governor Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly for providing an opportunity for the hospital community to outline the challenges we continue to face, and to share the solutions we believe will strengthen healthcare for all Illinoisans.”

During Hospital Advocacy Day, hospital and health system leaders will advocate for support of the following healthcare priorities:

- ***Protect Illinois’ Medicaid Funding*** – IHA and the Illinois hospital community are concerned about the menu of proposed Medicaid cuts now being circulated on Capitol Hill, including work requirements, reductions to the federal match (FMAP) and restrictions on provider taxes. Hospitals across the state open their doors every hour of every day to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. This commitment is especially critical for the 3.4 million Illinois residents who rely on Medicaid for access to healthcare. Medicaid is not just a program – it is a lifeline for low-income families, children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. It is the cornerstone of healthcare access in our state, and Illinois hospitals have been steadfast partners in ensuring its success. Any actions that reduce critical resources for the Medicaid program would have dire consequences for Illinois’ hospitals and the patients they serve across the state.
- ***Senate Bill 593*** – This legislation creates the Health Care Workforce Commission, a standing commission under the Illinois Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation, to bring together key stakeholders across the healthcare spectrum to collaborate on ideas

and solutions to address Illinois' critical workforce crisis. This includes staffing shortages, recruitment and retention challenges, lack of a sustainable workforce pipeline, increased violence in hospitals and healthcare facilities, and the ever-changing healthcare landscape which has created an unsustainable environment that is reducing access to care across the state. SB 593 will convene representatives from the Governor's Office, legislative leaders, state agencies, healthcare industry representatives, organized labor, and healthcare education professionals to look at these challenges in a holistic way so that comprehensive solutions can be brought to the General Assembly and Governor on an annual basis.

- [Senate Bill 2385/House Bill 3350](#) – The Illinois Patient Access to 340B Pharmacy Protection Act – modeled on similar legislation passed in Arkansas, Louisiana and nine other states – prohibits pharmaceutical manufacturers from prohibiting, restricting or interfering with a local pharmacy that contracts with a 340B covered entity, such as a hospital or federally qualified health center (FQHC), to dispense medications acquired through the 340B program. This legislation will preserve the status quo—restoring the program to how it operated before manufacturers began arbitrarily limiting the number of contract pharmacies hospitals could work with, hindering access to critical healthcare services for the state's most underserved residents. The Act does not require additional state or federal funding; rather, it protects patient access to low-cost drugs and services by requiring Big Pharma to provide the discounts already required under the 340B program. This legislation is vital to ensure low-income Illinoisans can access the life-saving medications and services they depend on.

Hospital Advocacy Day is an opportunity for hospital and health system leaders from communities throughout the state to engage directly with legislators and share first-hand the challenges they're facing and how legislation will impact their organizations, staff, and the patients they serve.

Statewide, hospitals and health systems are major job creators and economic engines in their communities, generating more than 445,000 direct and indirect jobs with an economic impact of \$117.7 billion a year.

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About IHA

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield, and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of healthcare and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty, and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see www.team-iha.org. Like IHA on [Facebook](#). Follow IHA on [X](#) (formally known as Twitter).

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