



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

**WHAT: Illinois Health and Hospital Association's 2nd Annual Health Equity Action Day
9 - 11:30 a.m., Friday, May 13; Register for the Livestream [here](#)
Bestselling Author Heather McGhee to Provide Keynote Address**

NAPERVILLE – The Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) will host its second annual Health Equity Action Day, [Accelerating Health Equity Across Illinois](#), on Friday, May 13 from 9 – 11:30 a.m., featuring successful health equity initiatives at Illinois hospitals and highlighting hospitals collective efforts to eliminate disparities and improve health outcomes.

During the virtual program, New York Times bestselling author Heather McGhee will deliver a keynote address, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper*. The event will also provide an update on IHA's [Racial Equity in Healthcare Progress Report](#) and share how hospitals are working to increase health equity in their communities.

Health Equity Action Day speakers include:

- **Keynote speaker, Heather McGhee**, Author, Educator, Policy Expert
- **Brenda Battle**, Senior Vice President, Community Health Transformation and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, The University of Chicago Medicine
- **Dr. David Ansell**, Senior Vice President for Community Health Equity, Rush University Medical Center
- **Dr. David Blumenthal**, President, Commonwealth Fund
- **Illinois State Senator Mattie Hunter**, Majority Caucus Chair
- **Illinois State Representative Elizabeth Hernandez**, Assistant Majority Leader
- **Illinois State Representative Camille Lilly**
- **Carmen Velasquez**, Founder, Alivio Medical Center and Healthy Illinois Campaign
- A Patient Representative from Health Benefits for Immigrants

During the event, IHA member hospitals will also offer their insights through hospital stories highlighting best practices for improving health equity, followed by a panel discussion with leaders of each initiative. We will hear from: **Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago; Edward-Elmhurst Health; OSF HealthCare Saint Luke Medical Center, in coordination with OSF OnCall Digital Health; and Memorial Health, in partnership with SIU School of Medicine and Hospital Sisters Health System.**

In support of the event, Gov. Pritzker issued a [proclamation](#) declaring May 13 as the Illinois Health and Hospital Association's Health Equity Action Day. A promotional flyer for the event can be found [here](#).

WHEN: Friday, May 13, 2022, 9 – 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: *Livestream*. To register for the free event [click here](#).

WHO: Hospital board members, healthcare leadership teams, physicians and other frontline healthcare professionals, patients and state officials.

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