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Illinois Hospital Leaders to Meet with State Legislators about Key Health Priorities During IHA’s Advocacy Day in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois hospital and health system leaders are calling on the General Assembly to support healthcare by passing legislation that will preserve critical state General Revenue Funding for hospitals; advance Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) prior authorization reforms; help deter violence against healthcare workers; and protect the 340B drug discount program.

On Wednesday, May 8, 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).

“Thank you to the members of the Illinois General Assembly for giving the hospital community an opportunity to share the challenges they continue to face and how, working together, we can improve healthcare in Illinois,” said A.J. Wilhelmi, IHA President and CEO. “IHA and the hospital community are advocating for continued state investment in healthcare in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget, and commonsense legislative reforms to eliminate burdensome prior authorization practices and protect healthcare workers in order to enhance access to care and improve health outcomes.”

During Hospital Advocacy Day, hospital and health system leaders will advocate for healthcare policy that would:

- Continue investment in equitable Medicaid hospital rates to provide access to quality healthcare for all by approving proposed funding for hospitals identified in Gov. JB Pritzker’s Fiscal Year 2025 introduced budget, specifically full funding of the 10% Medicaid rate increase for hospitals enacted last year that took effect Jan. 1, 2024.
- Reduce barriers to healthcare, streamline access to patient care and improve health outcomes by targeting inappropriate and inconsistent MCO prior authorization practices. The healthcare reforms embrace care coordination and seek to limit the MCO prior authorization denials and delays that represent some of the top challenges to providing healthcare to Medicaid patients.
- Deter increasingly vicious physical, emotional and verbal attacks. IHA introduced legislation to make it clear that those who harm healthcare professionals will be held accountable under the law. The hospital community is supporting policy that includes

violence against a healthcare worker in a healthcare setting as an aggravating factor a judge can consider during sentencing.

- Ensure access to life-saving drugs for patients served by 340B covered [entities](#) by prohibiting pharmaceutical manufacturers from interfering with a pharmacy contracted with a 340B covered entity, such as hospitals. Pharmaceutical manufacturers are actively working to limit the reach of the program for Illinois residents by limiting their ability to fill prescriptions through their local pharmacy, such as Walgreens or CVS. These actions make it difficult, and in some cases, impossible for Illinois' most vulnerable patients to get their prescription medication.

Hospital Advocacy Day is an opportunity for hospital and health system leaders from communities throughout the state to meet face-to-face with legislators and share first-hand how legislation will impact their organizations 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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