Illinois Health and Hospital Association

March 8, 2021

In a collaborative effort to improve quality and patient safety at hospitals across the state, the American Nurses Association-Illinois (ANA-IL) and the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) are supporting bipartisan legislation – "The Nurse Staffing Improvement Act" (*Senate Bill 2153*) – to strengthen the existing *Nurse Staffing by Patient Acuity Act*. SB2153 is sponsored by Senator Sue Rezin (38th District). See a fact sheet from IHA and ANA-IL for details about the legislation (*click here*).

ACTION REQUESTED: Contact your state Senator and ask her/him to sign on as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 2153.

To look up your Senator and her/his Springfield and district office contact information, *click here* (fill in the zip code box under "Find Officials/Look up and contact your officials" on the right side of the webpage).

You can also send an email message to your Senator by *clicking here*.

Suggested points for talking to your state Senator:

- I urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 2153, a bipartisan nurse staffing proposal to strengthen the state's *Nurse Staffing by Patient Acuity Act*. The bill is sponsored by Senator Sue Rezin.
- Our hospital/we strongly support this legislation because it will ensure that direct care nurses have a stronger voice in determining appropriate staffing levels at hospitals, based on the conditions and care needs (acuity) of their patients.
- Our hospital/we greatly value the work, commitment and compassion of our direct care nurses, and we continually work to provide the best work environment for nurses and quality care for patients.
- Senate Bill 2153 will provide a meaningful opportunity to improve quality and patient safety by advancing the partnership and collaboration between direct care nurses and hospitals across the state.
- This proposal also establishes clear mechanisms for transparency, enforcement and penalties to ensure that hospitals comply with safe staffing levels and standards.
- Key provisions of SB2153 include:
    - Each hospital's Nursing Care Committee must be comprised of at least 55% direct care nurses and its Co-Chair must be a direct care nurse;
    - The Committee must produce a hospital-wide staffing plan, including inpatient emergency departments;
    - Require the Committee to meet at least six times per year (now once annually), with reports and information from the committee to be provided to direct care nurses;
    - Require a mechanism for nurses to report variations from the staffing plan and a process for such reports to be reviewed and addressed;
    - Prohibit any retaliation for any employee who expresses a concern or complaint regarding a violation of the *Nurse Staffing by Patient Acuity Act* or concerns related to nurse staffing;
    - Authorize the Illinois Department of Public Health to enforce compliance of these requirements;
    - To help address the nursing shortage, hospitals will provide $2 million over the next four years for nurse scholarships to increase the number of new graduate nurses entering the profession.
- Please support and sign on as a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 2153.

If you have any questions about this alert, please contact IHA.

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