



Fact Sheet



Support SB 593 SFA 1 (Sen. Glowiak Hilton) Advancing Critical Healthcare Workforce Solutions

Commission 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 common sense legislation 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, delays in provider licensure 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 Commission—bringing together key stakeholders to identify solutions and develop policies that support recruitment, retention, and equitable, high-quality healthcare for all Illinoisans.

SB 593 SFA 1: The Illinois Health Care Workforce Commission will convene representatives from the Governor's Office, legislative leaders, state agency representatives, healthcare industry representatives, organized labor, and healthcare education professionals. The Commission will be charged with submitting annual 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.

For more information, please contact David Gross, Senior Vice President, Government Relations at dgross@team-iha.org or 217.541.1161.