*Sample Letter to the Editor/Op-Ed from your hospital’s CEO/leaders (customize as appropriate for your hospital) urging support of Nurse Staffing Improvement Act – Senate Bill*

*(Name of your hospital)* and all hospitals across Illinois greatly value and appreciate the outstanding commitment, compassion and dedication of our nurses to care for patients, especially their heroic and courageous lifesaving work during the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year.

That’s why we urge our state legislators to support and approve Senate Bill 2153, a bipartisan proposal to strengthen the state’s *Nurse Staffing by Patient Acuity Act*, sponsored by Senator Sue Rezin. This legislation will help provide the best work environment for nurses and quality care for patients by ensuring 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.

In my hospital and hospitals across the state, the condition of each of our patients changes continually, requiring flexible staffing plans. Staffing plans cannot be reduced to any one model or rigid mathematical formula that fits every setting or situation. Decisions on staffing and how to treat patients should be made at the local level, by nurses and hospitals working together.

Senate Bill 2153 will allow local direct care nurses, working in partnership with their hospitals, to determine the appropriate care and staffing of the clinical care team for each individual patient based on the patient’s acuity – including the severity of the patient’s condition and the intensity of nursing care required to meet the patient’s specific needs. This legislation also establishes clear mechanisms for transparency, enforcement and penalties to ensure that hospitals comply with safe staffing levels and standards.

It’s important to note that the American Nurses Association-Illinois and the Illinois Health and Hospital Association are collaborating and working together in supporting this legislation, reflecting a strong partnership between direct care nurses and the state’s more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 health systems.

We urge our state legislators to approve Senate Bill 2153 to support direct care nurses and improve quality and patient safety at Illinois’ hospitals.