



SB 1763 TOOLKIT



SENATE BILL 1763 LETTER TO THE EDITOR TEMPLATE

Dear Editor:

I am writing in support of a proposal pending in the Illinois General Assembly that would advance greater state investment in the state's Medicaid hospital rates. As the [TITLE] at [HOSPITAL/SYSTEM], I can confirm that state support in the form of a Medicaid rate increase for hospitals is absolutely critical to protect access to quality, equitable healthcare.

At [HOSPITAL/SYSTEM] we have seen a dramatic increase in our labor, drug and supply costs. Driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, these cost increases are not temporary. They will not go down. However, unlike grocery stores and gas stations, hospitals cannot simply raise their prices to cover cost increases. Medicaid rates are set by law, and the state Medicaid program only reimburses hospitals at about 80% of the cost to provide care.

The state's investment in the Medicaid inpatient base rate for hospitals hasn't increased in 28 years. In fact, it is less today than it was in 1995—though hospital costs have increased by 85% since that time.

At the same time, Medicaid utilization has increased significantly during that time. Today, Medicaid insures 3.6 million—or 3 in 10 Illinoisans—compared to 1 in 10 Illinoisans in 1995. With Medicaid and Medicare patients representing two-thirds of hospital inpatient stays, and over half of all hospital outpatient services, the associated costs of providing hospital care are significant.

It is unrealistic to expect Illinois hospitals can shoulder these costs without an impact on their financial stability and security. While [HOSPITAL/SYSTEM] has taken steps to respond to these pressures, the situation is fiscally unsustainable, placing critical programs and healthcare services at risk. [Provide examples of specific actions your hospital has taken, or is considering taking, to respond to the hospital financial crisis.]

To protect healthcare services for all members of our community, [HOSPITAL/SYSTEM] is seeking the General Assembly's support for Senate Bill 1763, which advances an increase to hospital Medicaid base rates. This support is absolutely critical to preserve and improve access to quality, affordable and equitable healthcare in Illinois.

[NAME]

[TITLE]

[HOSPITAL]