

April 25, 2018

**STATEMENT FROM THE ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
RE: AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5245
SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS (SANES)**

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) is disappointed that an amendment to House Bill 5245 does not include key suggestions from the hospital community to ensure that the goals of the legislation can be met.

IHA and hospitals across the state support the important public policy objectives of this initiative to help ensure that survivors of sexual assault, including children, receive the highest quality and most compassionate care that the state's healthcare delivery system can provide.

The IHA and the hospital community will continue to work collaboratively with policymakers to develop a realistic plan to increase the number of available Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANES).

However, we have deep concerns that the staffing mandates in the amendment would make it nearly impossible for hospitals to successfully implement the required steps and activities in order to provide quality care to sexual assault survivors in the timeframe the bill requires and in every region of the state, including rural communities.

Those issues which must be resolved for this legislation to be successful include:

- A realistic timetable for implementation
- Broadening the pool of qualified providers
- Aligning mandated annual training with emergency room staffing requirements
- Allowing hospitals already part of Illinois' EMS network to continue caring for sexual assault survivors.

Because of these significant unresolved issues, IHA opposes the amendment.