



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 21, 2024

IHA Contact: Paris Ervin

(217) 541-1153

[pervin@team-iha.org](mailto:pervin@team-iha.org)

## **IHA Statement on Gov. JB Pritzker's FY2025 State of the State, Budget Address**

**SPRINGFIELD** - The following statement can be attributed to A.J. Wilhelmi, President and CEO of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA), in response to Gov. JB Pritzker's State of the State and Budget Address.

*"The Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) commends Gov. Pritzker for his continued support of Illinois hospitals and assuring access to quality healthcare for all Illinoisans, particularly those in our most vulnerable communities. We applaud the Governor's commitment to a strong healthcare delivery system, and to prioritizing the state's investment in the Illinois Medicaid program.*

*"IHA strongly supports the Administration's proposal to hold payers accountable for their conflicting, confusing and unnecessarily burdensome prior authorization practices. We wholeheartedly agree with Governor Pritzker that the practice of insurance companies denying and delaying critical care prescribed by a medical professional must be addressed so that patients are not put at risk. Studies show prior authorization delays and denials negatively impact patient care and contribute to healthcare worker burnout and overcrowding in hospital emergency departments. IHA supports commonsense prior authorization reform that would enhance access to healthcare and improve health outcomes.*

*"IHA looks forward to working with the Governor on his proposal to mitigate medical debt. Illinois' hospitals and health systems provide quality care to every patient who walks through their door, regardless of their ability to pay. Illinois hospitals have long supported comprehensive health insurance coverage with affordable cost-sharing that ensures widespread access to quality healthcare while protecting patients from medical costs that go uncovered by insurance plans.*

*"IHA looks forward to working together with Gov. Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly to reduce barriers to healthcare, advance health equity, and ensure quality, compassionate care for all Illinoisans."*

**About IHA**

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield, and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of healthcare and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty, and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see [www.team-iha.org](http://www.team-iha.org). Like IHA on [Facebook](#). Follow IHA on [X](#) (formally known as Twitter).

###