



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 10, 2010

**STATEMENT BY IHA PRESIDENT MARYJANE WURTH ON  
THE GOVERNOR'S STATE BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Naperville, IL – The Illinois Hospital Association and the hospital community recognize that there are no easy answers or quick fixes to address the state's budget challenges. While those challenges mean that not all the state's needs can be met, we appreciate the Governor's continued support of health care for our most vulnerable populations, reflecting one of the primary missions of government – to protect the health and well being of its citizens.

The more than 200 hospitals and health systems across the state are anchors of health care and economic stability in their communities, providing high-quality, accessible care to the people of Illinois 24 hours a day, every day of the year. As major employers of nearly a quarter of a million highly skilled health care professionals and as major purchasers of goods and services, Illinois' hospitals and health systems generate a total economic impact on the state of \$72 billion annually. With so many jobs dependent on the fiscal health of hospitals, what's good for hospitals is good for the economy, their local communities and the state.

We look forward to working with the Governor and the General Assembly to find ways to solve the state's long-term structural budget problems, including the need for addressing the current limitations of revenues to support the state's important social needs.

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The Illinois Hospital Association (IHA), with offices in Naperville and Springfield, is an advocate for 200 Illinois hospitals and health systems and the patients and communities they serve. Additional information about IHA is available online at [www.ihatoday.org](http://www.ihatoday.org).

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