

July 10, 2017

**ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
STATE ADVOCACY ALERT**

TO: Chief Executive Officers, Member Hospitals and Health Systems
Chief Financial Officers
Government Relations Personnel
Public Relations Directors

FROM: A.J. Wilhelmi, President & CEO
David Gross, Senior Vice President, Government Relations

SUBJECT: **Thank Your Legislators Who Voted Yes to Enact State Budget**

IHA urges members to publicly thank their local legislators who voted “Yes” on overriding vetoes to end the state’s more than two-year long budget impasse – by sending a letter to the editor to your local newspaper, and by posting messages on Facebook and Twitter.

In the Senate, 35 Democrats and one Republican, and in the House, 61 Democrats and 10 Republicans, took very tough votes to enact the state budget in spite of political risks and public criticism. It is important that the hospital community show its appreciation to those legislators who voted “Yes” so that the new state budget and tax package could be implemented.

To look up how your local legislators voted, see the Senate override roll call on [Senate Bill 9](#); and the House override roll call on [Senate Bill 9](#). To look up your state legislators, [click here](#), and fill in your location information in the "Find Officials" box.

Sample Letter to the Editor (*customize with your local information*)

To the Editor:

I want to commend our state legislator(s), who took very difficult votes to enact a full state budget, the first in more than two years. Senator (*insert full name*) and Representative (*insert full name*) heard our concerns that the state needs a budget that supports healthcare and ensures that our local residents and all Illinoisans are able to receive healthcare when they need it.

They (*he/she*) understood that the budget impasse – with long delays in payments for Medicaid and state employee group health – was undermining the healthcare delivery system and vital social services in our communities.

For example, the state owes (*name of your hospital*) \$XX million for Medicaid and state group health for healthcare services that our hospital had already provided up to a year ago (*or XX*

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months ago). That forced us to make difficult decisions such as *XXX (examples to insert: delaying needed facility improvements and upgrades, imposing a hiring freeze, laying off staff, cutting back XX service, outsourcing XX services)*.

Senator (*last name*) and Representative (*last name*) understood that continuing to go without a budget was not in the best interests of their constituents and our community – where healthcare is one of the leading employers and critical to the local economy. They (*or he/she*) rose to the occasion at a critical time for our state and had the courage to do the right thing in spite of political risks and public criticism. They (*or he/she*) deserve (*s*) our appreciation and thanks.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Hospital Name

Tips and Suggestions for Posting Messages on Facebook and Twitter

Social media is one of the simplest and most visible ways to show your support for your State Senator and Representative who voted “Yes” on the recently passed state budget. Customize one of the following template Facebook posts and Twitter tweets, tag your state legislators, and send them out on your personal and/or hospital social media accounts.

(To see the list of Facebook tags and/or Twitter handles for these state legislators, [click here](#). Note, some legislators may not have both Facebook tags and Twitter handles.)

Sample Facebook Posts

Thank you (*tag legislator - example @SenJohnDoe*) for supporting the Illinois hospital community by voting “Yes” on the state budget. We appreciate your commitment to developing a comprehensive budget solution without damaging cuts to healthcare.

We support (*tag state leader - example @RepJaneDoe*) who voted “Yes” on the state budget. Thanks for your work to protect healthcare for the people of Illinois.

Sample Tweets (must be 140 characters or less)

Thanks (*insert state leader’s handle - example @RepJaneDoe*) for supporting IL hospitals by voting “Yes” on the state budget.

Our hospital appreciates (*insert state leader’s handle - example @SenJohnDoe*) who voted “Yes” on the IL budget.

[Make sure to follow IHA on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#). Feel free to tag us in any of your posts and tweets.]