

May 19, 2017

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

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

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

**SUBJECT: Urge Your State Senator and Representative to Oppose Workers' Comp Cuts**

Legislation (Senate Bills 12 and 198) has been filed in the General Assembly calling for a reduction in the state Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule (more than \$100 million) and linking the fee schedule to Medicare.

Votes on these bills may be imminent today.

**ACTION REQUESTED: Contact your state Senator and Representative NOW and urge them to oppose and vote NO on Senate Bills 12 and 198 – as well as on any other bill that would cut Workers' Compensation medical fee schedule rates to providers.**

To look up your state Senator and Representative and their contact information, [click here](#), and fill in your location information in the "Find Officials" box. Or to send emails to your state Senator and Representative, [click here](#).

**Suggested Talking Points**

- The Workers Compensation Medical Fee Schedule should not be cut. Further cuts would jeopardize injured workers' access to needed medical care.
- Medical payments should not be linked to Medicare - which is just another way of implementing a fee schedule cut. It would introduce even greater uncertainty by imposing future Medicare payment cuts due to federal budget considerations onto Illinois providers treating injured workers.
- The proposed fee schedule cuts would eliminate reimbursement for implants utilized in surgical procedures – affecting the ability of providers to deliver the necessary care to injured workers and creating additional access to care issues.
- Hospitals absorbed a 30 percent reduction in the Medical Fee Schedule under the 2011 reform law.

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- Since the 2011 reforms, the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) reduced its recommended costs for workers' compensation insurance by 28.7 percent – but that reduction has not been fully passed on to employers.
- Any proposed changes must address non-financial provider protections, including implementing improved, modernized reporting and electronic billing systems.
- Please vote NO on Senate Bills 12 and 198 and any other bill that would cut Workers' Compensation medical fee schedule rates to providers.