



SEIU HCII

Illinois ■ Indiana ■ Missouri ■ Kansas

Greg Kelley
President

Erica Bland-Duosinmi
Executive Vice-President

Maggie Laslo
Secretary-Treasurer

Vice Presidents:

Jaquie Algee
Shaba Andrich
Jessica Angus
Felecia Bryant
Faith Arnold
Bernita Drayton
Myra Glassman
Anne Igoe
Lenny Jones
Paige Kelly
Tiara Lloyd
Heather McNabola
Sylvia Martinez
Evelyn Osorio
Shawndra Robinson
Jaqueline Rodriguez
Brynn Seibert

Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination
Division of Medical Programs
Healthcare and Family Services
201 S. Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62763

Administrator Cunningham,

SEIU Healthcare Illinois is a union comprised of 90,000 care workers including thousands of hospital workers in Chicagoland and an advocate for hospital workers and patients across our state.

We are writing today to express support for the new Tiered Safety-Net Add-On which will provide an additional \$50 million a year to Illinois hospitals that care for a disproportionate number of Medicaid patients.

Safety-net hospitals are embedded in vulnerable communities where big, affluent health systems like Advocate Health and Northwestern Medicine are mostly absent.

They face significant financial challenges due to the high percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries in their patient population which, as our members who work in safety-net hospitals know all too well, can affect the quality and quantity of care provided.

Illinois

2229 S. Halsted
Chicago, IL 60608
Phone: 312.980.9000
Fax: 312.939.8256

The new Tiered Safety-Net Add-On will provide these facilities with the financial resources necessary to expand services and provide sufficient compensation to recruit and retain frontline care workers.

Indiana

1800 N. Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Phone: 317.927.9691

SEIU Healthcare Illinois is particularly pleased with the tiered structure of the new add-on that provides more financial support to the facilities in the greatest need.

Missouri

5585 Pershing Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63112
Phone: 314.533.3633

Our only criticism of the new policy is that it allows grandfathered safety-net hospitals that no longer meet the necessary criteria and safety-net hospitals that are part of large, affluent health systems to receive add-on payments.

These facilities are either no longer in financial distress and/or can draw on the significant big system resources to offset losses from serving a significant percentage of Medicaid patients.

They neither need nor deserve additional support.

Despite this criticism, SEIU Healthcare Illinois broadly supports the new Tiered Safety-Net Add-On as a smart and equitable policy mechanism to provide much needed additional financial support to our state's essential safety-net hospitals.

Sincerely,

Anne Igoe
Health Systems Director
SEIU Healthcare Illinois
2229 S. Halsted St.
Chicago, IL 60608