



ILLINOIS NURSES ASSOCIATION

*Empowering Nurses through...
Education, Advocacy, and Political Action*

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INA Applauds Governor Quinn's proposed plan to keep state facilities open

Chicago—November 29, 2011—The Illinois Nurses Association, which represents 164 nurses employed at six state run mental health care facilities, applauded Governor Pat Quinn's plan that would allow state-run mental health facilities to remain open.

The mental health facilities were on the chopping block as a way to close a large state budget gap. The plan calls for keeping the mental health facilities at Chester, Tinley Park, Chester, Singer, Mabley, Jacksonville and Logan open, pending General Assembly approval.

“Many nurses and INA representatives traveled throughout the state to testify at the public hearings surrounding this issue and we are gratified that the Governor and his staff heard our arguments to keep these essential facilities open,” said Susan Swart, executive director of the INA.

Publicly employed nurses provide compassionate care in a heroic manner under less than ideal settings at these facilities. To close them would place an undue burden on health care safety net system and jeopardize public safety, Swart said.

INA is encouraging its members to contact their legislators to urge them to vote in favor of this budget resolution when it is introduced in the General Assembly.

About INA

The Illinois Nurses Association is the pre-eminent voice for nurses in the state of Illinois. With over 100 years of exemplary service to our constituent members, the organization has consistently strived to address issues concerning nurses. The purpose of the Illinois Nurses Association (INA), the organization of registered professional nurses, is to:

- Improve health standards and influence the delivery of quality health care services for all people,
- Foster high standards for nursing practice,

- Stimulate and promote the professional development of nurses and advance their economic and general welfare.
- Empower nurses and influence health policy through political action.

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