



Press Release
For Immediate Release

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Illinois Nurses Support Legislation Protecting Patients

CHICAGO, IL- The Illinois Nurses Association continues to support legislation protecting patients in state-run residential facilities, such as prisons and mental hospitals, in the war to prevent MRSA. Health officials say the drug-resistant staph infection known as MRSA, which stands for Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus, can prove difficult to treat.

Traditional media reported recently that legislators support Senate Bill 105 and House Bill 185. These bills further serve to protect patients in these facilities through education and a mandated reporting system. The Illinois Nurses Association, (INA) the only professional association representing Registered Professional Nurses in these facilities, stands by the basis upon which these bills were created.

“INA believes that as our nurses work diligently to protect their patients in these residential facilities, supporting legislation that helps better educate the public and those at risk is a key issue. Maintaining records of these infections will also serve to protect the patients and the nurses caring for them,” said Elwood Thompson, Program Director, Illinois Nurses Association.

INA stands in support of the proposed legislation — Senate Bill 105 and House Bill 185 – establishing guidelines for educating state workers, prison inmates and others about how to protect themselves from infection. Another need is to have state residential facilities issue regular reports about MRSA outbreaks.

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The Illinois Nurses Association (INA), a constituent member of the American Nurses Association and the United American Nurses, and is the largest professional nursing organization in Illinois. INA is dedicated to advancing the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the legislature and regulatory agencies on healthcare issues affecting nurses and the public.