

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) Medicaid Expansion Position Paper

The Illinois Nurses Association (INA) supports the expansion of Medicaid through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. As an organization that has serviced the nurses of Illinois for over 100 years, we at INA believe nurses play a vital role in the delivery of quality, safe and compassionate healthcare services. Nurses contribute an enormous amount of skill and knowledge to patient care and play a major role in creating a high standard of nursing and the improvement of health standards.

Background:

The Illinois Legislature must decide whether to expand Medicaid for individuals who are at 133% of the poverty level. Illinois recently reduced healthcare by \$1.6 billion. Medicaid expansion could bring almost half a million people into the Medicaid system.

The federal government will pay the full cost for people added to the Medicaid system but will phase the program down to 90% by the year 2020.

Points of Interest:

- Expanding Healthcare will allow working parents, people with disabilities, senior citizens and nursing home residents to have access to healthcare.
- Primary care services and preventive care will reduce the increase in costly and complex health conditions.
- Nurses are available to meet the increased demand created by Medicaid expansion.
- The creation and use of a Nurses Registry will help contain the overtime costs associated with high healthcare demand.
- Nurses are the fundamental backbone for success of patient care and safety.
- All nurses should be allowed to work to the full extent of their education and experience in order to meet the need of increased patient demand while providing high-quality cost-efficient healthcare services.