



**UnityPoint Health**

**UnityPoint Health® – Central Illinois**

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January 20, 2021

The Honorable Jay Robert (J.B.) Pritzker  
Governor  
State of Illinois  
207 State House  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker,

First, let us thank you for your leadership and guidance as our state continues to navigate the unprecedented public health crisis posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As Chief Executive Officers of UnityPoint Health – Central Illinois and Quad Cities, our 9,200 front-line health care workers and team members, five hospitals, three Community Mental Health Centers and over 100 clinics continue to stand committed to partnering with you to care for the needs of Illinoisans.

We are writing today to urge you to veto House Bill 3360 that will, if signed into law, place an even greater financial burden on health care providers and facilities that are on the front line in the fight against COVID-19. With a combined community benefit of \$60 million annually and over 340,000 patients receiving care from our organizations each year, this bill will undoubtedly stall our efforts to address health care disparities and inequities by driving physicians and providers out of Illinois and further limit our ability to maximize scarce resources to expand access to care.

House Bill 3360 mandates a 9 percent prejudgment interest rate on defendants in every personal injury and wrongful death case. This extraordinarily high interest rate, which does not reflect the current market, begins to accrue from the date the defendant receives notice of an alleged injury until the court renders a final judgment. This inherently egregious penalty upends our existing judicial system by attaching interest penalties before a lawsuit has even been filed, let alone decided.

House Bill 3360 further tilts the playing field in the direction of trial attorneys and away from health care providers who are doing everything possible to keep Illinoisans' safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill encourages the expansion of frivolous lawsuits and puts pressure on hospitals to settle lawsuits or face crushing financial consequences. The legislation would, in essence, force hospitals to choose between going to trial or settle the

dispute, leading to enormous costs to those charged with providing care in an incredibly challenging time.

It is unfathomable to think that House Bill 3360 is good for Illinois when policymakers and elected officials should be discussing ways to support our state's healthcare providers and hospitals as we face the nation's greatest pandemic in recent memory. What is more concerning is that this bill was passed during the state's five-day lame duck session with absolutely no input from the health care and provider community.

For the past year, our hospitals and the communities we serve have experienced incredible and unprecedented difficulties. The state of Illinois already has the most trial bar friendly environment of any state in the country. To double-down on an already challenging environment for health care providers, especially regarding legislation that was passed in the early morning hours of the lame duck session, would be wrong for Illinois, especially during a global pandemic.

We implore you to please stand with the Illinois hospitals and job creators and veto the legislation, in full, when it reaches your desk. We are available to you or your staff at any time and thank you for your consideration of this critical matter. Thank you again for your continued leadership in these unparalleled times.

Sincerely,



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