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Saturday, July 30, 2022

## Today's headlines:

- [Miller-Meeks introduces IHA-supported travel nurse bill](#)
- [IHA advocacy team weekly round up](#)
- [IHA, Iowa businesses combat human trafficking](#)
- [HRSA announces \\$15m workforce funding](#)
- [CMS announces 2023 IPPS final rule](#)

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### Miller-Meeks introduces IHA-supported travel nurse bill

A new bill has been introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives to examine the impact of nursing agencies on the health care industry during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Reps. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D., \(R-IA\) and Greg Murphy, M.D., \(R-NC\) introduced](#) the [Traveling Nursing Agency Transparency Study Act](#) instructing the U.S. Government Accountability Office to conduct a study and report to Congress about potential price gouging and to boost transparency about nursing agency payouts from health care institutions.

IHA supported the bill and worked with Rep. Miller-Meeks' office to ensure hospitals can continue to provide high-quality, affordable care to Iowans.

"Iowa hospitals have continued to provide high-quality care for Iowans as hospitalizations have increased over the past two and half years," said IHA President and CEO Chris Mitchell. "Given the staffing challenges over that period, hospitals have been forced to rely on workforce provided by traveling nurse staffing agencies that have drastically increased hourly rates to levels never experienced by hospitals. Passage of this legislation would ensure greater transparency and a better understanding around the dynamics and business practices of these staffing agencies."

Email [Erin Cubit](#) at IHA with questions.

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### IHA advocacy team weekly round up

The IHA advocacy team met with nine candidates for the state legislature, bringing the total to 16 interviews. There are 55 candidates running for open seats in the Iowa legislature and IHA continues to schedule interviews to help the IHA PAC committee identify hospital champions ahead of the 2022 general election.

The IHA advocacy team this week also worked with the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise to create a clinical definition of psychiatric intensive care to distinguish between general psychiatric care and psychiatric intensive care. The definition will determine clinical documentation standards that support receiving the enhanced rate for psychiatric

## **IHA, Iowa businesses combat human trafficking**

Today is World Day Against Human Trafficking, and Secretary of State Paul Pate, IHA, the Iowa departments of Public Safety and Transportation and Iowa business are working together to raise awareness about human trafficking.

IHA became a member of the [Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking Initiative](#) last year. The Iowa Businesses Against Trafficking Initiative is one of several tools and initiatives hospitals and health systems are encouraged to use including:

- [An online tip line](#) to collect information about suspected trafficking operations.
  - [Free online training created by the Iowa Department of Safety's Office to Combat Human Trafficking](#). The training is available to anyone, but is required for any lodging provider hosting public employees or publicly funded events.
  - [State outreach programs](#) to educate the public about signs of human trafficking.
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## **HRSA announces \$15m workforce funding**

Hospitals and health systems across the U.S. are struggling to fill nursing positions, with more than [4,000 nursing openings in Iowa](#). To help expand the nurse workforce, the [U.S. Human Resources and Services Administration announced](#) nursing schools and health care facilities can apply by Monday, Aug. 22, for a portion of \$10 million in funding to recruit, train and support clinical nursing faculty and preceptors.

They also can apply by Friday, Aug. 19, for a portion of [\\$4.75 million in funding to expand the number of nursing students](#) trained in acute care settings with an emphasis on addressing social determinants of health and advancing health equity.

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## **CMS announces 2023 IPPS final rule**

The final rules for the [inpatient rehabilitation facility payment system for fiscal year 2023](#) increased payments by an estimated 3.2% and caps annual decreases in wage index updates.

The final rule also:

- Requires facilities to collect quality data about patients, regardless of payer, starting October 2023.
- Updates policy affecting displaced medical residents.

[Email Erin Cubit](#) at IHA with questions.

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## NewsStand

### Iowa news

- [COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Iowa, hospitalizations remain steady](#)
- [Mercy Cedar Rapids employee receives IHERF scholarship](#)
- [Survey finds lack of understanding about what Iowa midwives do](#)

### National news

- [Nearly half of parents of younger children won't vaccinate them.](#)
- [Data breaches cost health systems more than \\$10M each](#)
- [Biden admin to roll out updated COVID-19 boosters in September](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

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### Online education

- [Basics of Proposed Rural Emergency Hospital Conditions of Participation and Payment](#): Tuesday, Aug. 2
- [2022 IHA Employment Law Four-Part Virtual Series](#): Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [Creating Successes: IHA's Summer Series for Health Care Leaders](#): Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [Infection Prevention and Antibiotic Stewardship](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series](#): Tuesday, Sept. 13 - Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, Nov. 29
- [Pharmacy Conditions of Participation](#): Tuesday, Dec. 6
- [CMS Updates](#): Thursday, Dec. 15

### In-person meetings

- [IHERF Swinging for Scholars Golf Outing](#): Thursday, Sept. 1
  - [Iowa Society for Healthcare Engineering Fall Conference](#): Thursday, Sept. 15 - Friday, Sept. 16
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Members are encouraged to visit IHA's Digital on Demand store to catch up on webinars or informational videos they may have missed.

The IHA Digital on Demand store offers:

- [Demonstration and training videos](#) for DataGen, DATABANK and Dimensions dashboards.
- [CEO podcasts](#).
- Previously recorded [webinars and presentations](#) including project presentations from the Advanced Leadership Academy.
- [Trustee resources](#).

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## Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](https://HospitalCareers.com) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.



Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.

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