



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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IHA Statement on the Passing of Silver Cross Hospital President and CEO Ruth Colby

NAPERVILLE - The Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) is profoundly saddened to learn of the passing of Ruth Colby, President and Chief Executive Officer of Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox, Illinois.

Ruth Colby was a healthcare champion for the residents of Illinois, dedicating her life to the health and well-being of the people in the communities she served.

Ruth's commitment to healthcare and community service extended to her engagement with IHA, where she served in many roles, most recently as Chair-Elect of the IHA Board of Trustees. Ruth was well-respected by her peers and had been unanimously voted to serve as Chair of the IHA Board in 2024, in recognition of her strong leadership and many contributions to the hospital community throughout her career.

"This is such a loss for New Lenox and the communities of Will County, but also for the State of Illinois. Ruth was an accomplished and visionary healthcare leader, always focused on assuring everyone has access to quality healthcare," said A.J. Wilhelmi, President and CEO of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association. "Ruth was also a personal friend and will be dearly missed by me and our entire team. On behalf of IHA, I want to extend my sincere condolences to Ruth's family and her many friends, and to the wonderful team at Silver Cross Hospital."

"Given our leadership roles with the Association, I had the privilege of working closely with Ruth and witnessed her deep commitment to both the Silver Cross community and Illinois healthcare overall," said J.P. Gallagher, IHA Board Chair and President and CEO of NorthShore-Edward-Elmhurst Health. "Ruth was a widely respected leader who made significant contributions to our field and brought both conviction and compassion to everything she did. She will be deeply missed."

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About IHA

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of healthcare and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see team-iha.org. Like IHA on [Facebook](#). Follow IHA on [Twitter](#).

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