

Illinois State Medical Society



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members, Illinois General Assembly

FROM: James E. Tierney, Vice President
Robert John Kane, Legal Counsel
Erin O'Brien, Assistant Vice President

RE: SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT TO THE POLST FORM – SB 3076

DATE: February 19, 2014

Members of the Illinois Hospital Association, the Illinois State Medical Society, the Illinois Society for Advanced Practice Nursing, and the American Nurses Association, requests your support of SB 3076, legislation that seeks to improve the Practitioner Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form.

The current form fails to meet the national requirements set by the National POLST Initiative due to the potential confusion between the state POLST form and a do-not-resuscitate order. Specifically, our changes remove the “do not resuscitate” and “Advance Directive” language in the title and border of the form

Without these changes, the form could cause undo medical errors. According to the National POLST Initiative the words “DO NOT RESUSCITATE” in the title may be misinterpreted. Patients who want CPR may be denied it because the order for CPR in Section A of the form is AFTER the title UNIFORM DO-NOT-RESUSUITATE (DNR) ADVANCE DIRECTIVE.

SB 3076 removes that conflicting language from the POLST form.

The bill also expands the types of health care professionals who may execute the POLST form to include advanced practice nurses, physician assistants and some medical residents. This reflects the reality of the who may be responsible for key aspects of a patient’s care.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote yes on SB 3076.