

Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.

NEWS

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WHA Lauds Introduction of Physician Residency Bill ***Thanks Wisconsin Delegation for support***

MADISON (March 16, 2016) -----The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) lauds introduction of H.R. 4732, the Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act, authored by U.S. Rep. Reid Ribble (R-WI 8th CD) and U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI 3rd CD). This legislation along with S. 2671, authored by a bipartisan group of U.S. Senators including both Wisconsin Senators Johnson and Baldwin, will fix a technical glitch in federal regulations that has inhibited several Wisconsin hospitals from expanding their physician residency capacity.

“WHA greatly appreciates the leadership of Reps. Ribble and Kind in authoring HR 4732, the Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act,” said WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding. “This legislation is essential for hospitals like those in Green Bay to be able to meet their community’s growing physician residency needs. WHA thanks the entire Wisconsin Congressional Delegation for their bipartisan support.”

Meeting Wisconsin’s physician capacity needs is an ongoing priority of WHA. One of the key findings to come out of the WHA seminal physician workforce report, “100 Physicians a Year: An Imperative for Wisconsin,” was the fact that some 86 percent of physicians who attended medical school in Wisconsin and completed their residency in Wisconsin *stayed* in Wisconsin. Since the report’s release in 2011, WHA and other stakeholders have worked aggressively and collaboratively to meet Wisconsin’s physician workforce needs.

One result of these collective efforts is the launch of new education and training models, such as the Medical College of Wisconsin’s (MCW) Community Medical Education Program, which includes the creation of the new MCW campus in Green Bay. MCW-Green Bay welcomed its first class of 26 students in 2015. WHA strongly believes new graduate medical education positions must be in place so these medical school graduates will be able to continue their training in a Wisconsin community setting.

H.R. 4732 and S. 2671 are companion bills that help our state reach this goal by addressing a glitch in the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule that inappropriately caps the residency positions at HSHS St. Vincent and Bellin in Green Bay. With a new crop of MCW-Green Bay medical school graduates in the pipeline, these residency positions are absolutely essential.

“WHA encourages Congress to act quickly on this important yet simple technical fix,” Borgerding closed. “Doing so will help Wisconsin continue to meet the needs of our patients and communities.”

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