

# Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc. NEWS



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## Wisconsin Hospital Association Statement

### AB 1073 – Cap on Non-Economic Damage Awards – Being Signed Into Law

*Wisconsin Hospital Association President Steve Brenton released the following statement today regarding the enactment of AB 1073.*

**MADISON (March 22, 2006)** ---- “Hospitals across Wisconsin are breathing a sigh of relief today with the news that AB 1073 is now law. Wisconsin’s once envied and stable liability environment, which helped bring physicians to Wisconsin and keep them practicing here, is back on track. This is a great day for Wisconsin’s health care system and, more importantly, the patients our hospitals care for 24/7/365.”

“This simply would not have been possible without the steadfast commitment and leadership of several members of the Legislature from both parties and their staffs. While we are very grateful to all 99 members who voted for this critical legislation, AB 1073 would not have been in front of Governor Doyle to sign if not for the particularly notable efforts of Sen. Fitzgerald (R-Juneau), Speaker Gard (R-Peshtigo), Rep. Gielow (R-Mequon), Rep. Huebsch (R-West Salem), Sen. Jauch (D-Poplar), Sen. Miller (D-Madison), Sen. Schultz (R-Richland Center) and Rep. Wasserman (D-Milwaukee).”

(A list of those who voted for and against AB 1073 is available at WHA’s website: [wha.org](http://wha.org))

“WHA also commends Governor Doyle and his staff for understanding the important role a cap plays in assuring we have good doctors in Wisconsin and in our community hospitals. The Governor has said all along he will sign a constitutional cap, and we believe that’s exactly what he signed today. We commend him for doing the right thing and signing this overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation.”

“There is one final hurdle, and that is the Wisconsin Supreme Court. I have no doubt this law will be challenged by trial lawyers who will do whatever it takes to kill a reasonable cap. However, we are confident this new law will be found constitutional by a majority of the Court and look forward to just as vigorously defending it there as we did in the Legislature.”

“AB 1073 also demonstrates how hard work and strong lobbying by a united medical community can win the day. There are many more policy challenges ahead, particularly related to Medicaid, and we look forward to working with all our partners in the coming months to address those issues.”

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