

Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.



WHA President Steve Brenton Releases Statement Re: Gov. Doyle's Veto of the Health Care Quality Improvement Act --SB 578

MADISON (April 19, 2006) ----- We are very disappointed with Governor Doyle's ill-advised veto of SB 578, the Health Care Quality Improvement Act. This legislation is aimed at improving health care quality and safety by encouraging collaboration and information sharing among health care providers. We commend all 129 legislators who voted for SB 578 and recognize the importance of this legislation.

The Health Care Quality Improvement Act enjoyed bipartisan support in the Legislature. We commend the authors Senator Kanavas, Representative Underheim and Senator Roessler for understanding the need to modernize our 1970s era peer review statute and working diligently to bring this important legislation forward.

Wisconsin's outdated peer review statute is increasingly causing health care providers to perform quality improvement activity while looking over their shoulders in fear of being sued. This bill would have changed that by providing a tremendous incentive to do even more quality improvement and public reporting.

SB 578 was supported across Wisconsin by those truly committed to improving the quality and safety of patient care – dedicated professionals in our hospitals, clinics and nursing homes who are on the front lines of health care, not in courtrooms.

The Wisconsin Hospital Association will redouble its efforts to enact the Health Care Quality Improvement Act so that doctors, nurses and others can work together to improve the care provided to their patients; so that health care providers can provide health care consumers and purchasers with data concerning quality improvement measures to enable informed health care decisions; and so that Wisconsin providers can develop state of the art quality analysis tools – keeping Wisconsin as the recognized leader in health care quality.

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