

## Please Support Growing WI's Health Care Workforce

Wisconsin health care faces a workforce shortage like other sectors but with challenges unique to health care.

- Congress should continue efforts to reduce regulations that require hospitals to take time and resources away from patient care and towards compliance.
- Congress should continue efforts to increase physician residency (GME) slots. Nearly 9 in 10 Wisconsin students who attend medical school and a residency in WI will stay and practice in WI.

### WHA Ask:

***Please cosponsor the Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2021 (S.834/H.R. 2256) to help grow Wisconsin's health care workforce.***

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# Wisconsin's Health Care Workforce Challenge

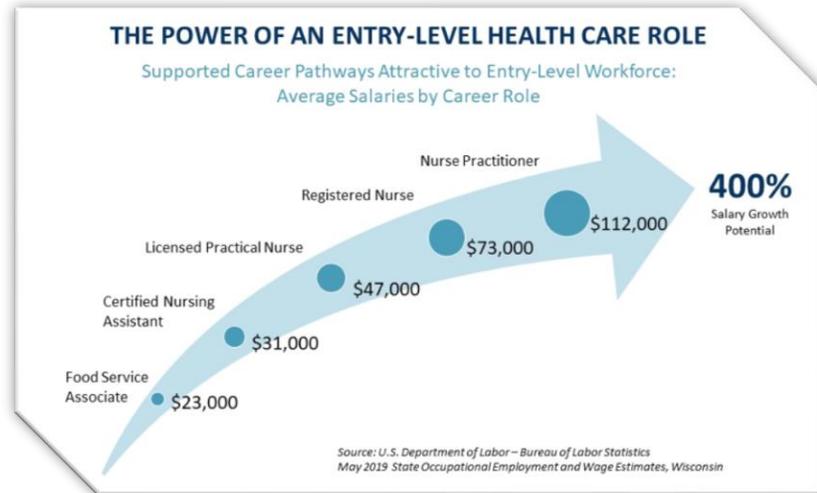
## Growing demands on a shrinking pool of workers

### Highlights

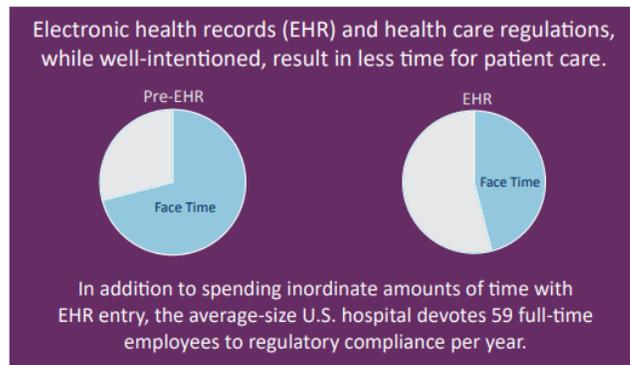
- Like other sectors of the economy, health care continues to face workforce shortages.
- Both entry-level positions like nursing assistants and advanced practice professions like nurse practitioners and physicians are some of the greatest shortages.
- The COVID-19 pandemic required ingenuity and adaptability while providing an opportunity to see the positive impact of greater regulatory flexibility.

### The Health Care Workforce Cannot Grow Fast Enough

Wisconsin has long faced a "silver tsunami" – where our age 75+ population keeps growing and requiring more services while our health care workforce simultaneously shrinks. Despite health care being a great field with growing career potential, our health care workforce cannot grow fast enough to keep pace with the escalating demands of an aging population.



### Congress Should Continue Recent Efforts to Increase Regulatory Flexibility



Flexibility granted during the COVID pandemic helped hospitals respond to severe workforce challenges while maintaining high quality care. Hospitals already deal with an extremely heavy regulatory burden that requires hospitals to invest resources in compliance that would be better spent on patient care.

### Congress Should Continue Expanding Graduate Medical Education (GME) Slots

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 added 1,000 physician residency slots to teaching hospitals – the first significant increase since Congress froze the number of slots more than 20 years ago. WHA helped build a state-funded GME grant program that hospitals also put matching funds into. Thanks to this program, Wisconsin has an additional 125 residency slots, and our data shows that nearly 9 in 10 Wisconsin students who attend a WI medical school and residency will stay and practice in Wisconsin – making these slots an invaluable recruiting tool, particularly for rural areas. **WHA is extremely grateful for the additional federal slots and urges lawmakers to support S. 834/H.R. 2256 - the Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2021 being introduced by Sens. Mendendez (D-N.J.) and Boozman (R-Ark) and Reps. Sewell (D-AL) and Davis (R-IL) which would add an additional 2,000 residency slots per year.**