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WHA Praises Committee Action to Protect Health Care Professionals

WHA-Backed Amendment Reflects the Broad Array of Medical Workers Involved in Patient Care

The Wisconsin Hospital Association praised this morning's action by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety to strengthen a bill criminalizing the act of causing intentional bodily harm to health care workers. As originally introduced, 2019 Senate Bill 163 increased the penalty for harm to a nurse in a health care setting. Senate Amendment 1 to the bill – authored by Sen. André Jacque and strongly supported by WHA – wisely expands the bill to include all licensed health care professionals acting in their professional capacity.

“Maintaining Wisconsin’s status as a state providing top-quality health care is a constant priority,” said Eric Borgerding, WHA president and CEO. “Discouraging violent behavior helps to protect hospital staff who deliver this top-quality care to anyone who comes through a hospital’s doors. We’re pleased the Committee acted unanimously to include all of Wisconsin’s health care professionals in this important bill.”