



Support Wisconsin's Healthcare Workforce

Please Exempt Health Care from \$100,000 H-1B Visa Fee

WHA Position

Please support an exemption for health care workers from the \$100,000 H-1B Visa Fee

Workforce shortages threaten access to quality care. Despite Wisconsin's best efforts to "grow our own" health care workers right in WI, as facilities that must be staffed 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week, hospitals simply do not have enough U.S. workers to meet growing demand being driven largely by aging demographics.

Please Cosponsor The Physicians and the Healthcare Workforce Act ([H.R. 7961](#)), which would support hospitals by exempting foreign-trained health care workers from the \$100,000 H-1B visa filing fee established last year.

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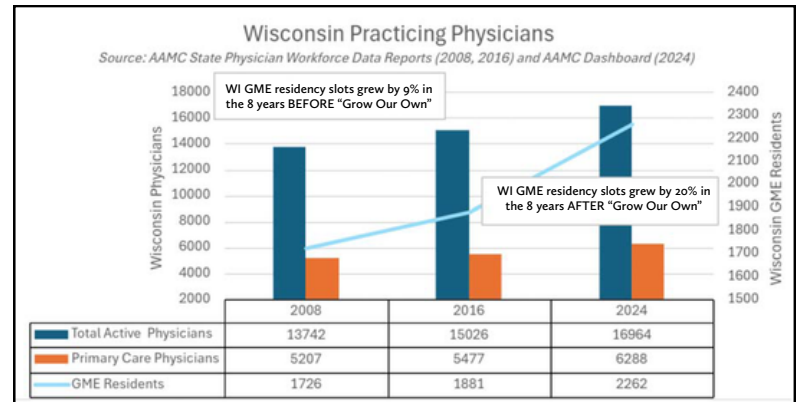
Wisconsin's 2026 Health Care Workforce Report shows that we continue to make progress in reducing vacancy rates, but demographics are not working in our favor. Policy makers must continue to find ways to do more, as the trajectory indicates there will be fewer younger workers to care for an ever-growing elderly population that continues to require more care.



WI "Grow Our Own" Success Story

Wisconsin's "Grow Our Own" grants use private, state, and federal funds to increase physician training opportunities in Wisconsin.

- This has led to 193 new residency training opportunities for physicians who would have otherwise trained in other states.
- These programs now graduate 86 new physicians (and growing) ever year!
- The vast majority stay and practice in WI.



Yet, WI still relies on H-1B Visas to Meet Demand

Wisconsin has employed a variety of strategies to grow the health care workforce right here in Wisconsin.

- In addition to the "Grow our Own" grants, WHA members work closely with private and public K-12 schools, technical colleges, four-year campuses, and graduate schools to develop home-grown training and education programs that grow the health care workforce.
- The WHA Foundation has also developed a public relations campaign called "So Many Options," which stresses the options available to anyone interested in pursuing a career in health care, aimed particularly at students who may not know what career they want.

Despite these efforts, we continue to experience shortages

- WHA Information Center data shows individuals 65 and older average 6 health care encounters to every 1 for those less than 45 years of age.
- As the 8th oldest state in the country in terms of the percentage of its population aged 65 and older and on Medicare, Wisconsin's health care workforce must be supported to sustain the high-quality health care Wisconsinites have become accustomed to and deserve.
- According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) one in five members of the Wisconsin physician workforce is a graduate of an international medical school, and often their entry into the health care workforce relied upon a H-1B visa.