



ADVOCATE. ADVANCE. LEAD.

5510 Research Park Drive, Ste. 200
Fitchburg, WI 53711
608.274.1820 | FAX 608.274.8554
www.wha.org

July 23, 2026

The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor, State of Wisconsin
State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

Ms. Jennifer L. Malak
Chair, Wisconsin Board of Nursing
Department of Safety and Professional Services
Madison, WI 53708

DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

Dear Governor Evers and Chair Malak,

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) and our over 150 members thank you for allowing Wisconsin to lead the way, once again, by adopting Board of Nursing rules consistent with recently adopted national nursing school accreditation standards that allow for an expanded role for baccalaureate prepared nurses (BSN) to serve as clinical faculty for nursing students. The Governor's approval of Board of Nursing N1 Faculty Standards allows nursing schools across the state to begin utilizing this important Wisconsin advantage to expand nursing school class sizes and allow more interested and qualified candidates to enter this career pathway.

In [June 2024](#), WHA asked the Task Force to consider allowing experienced BSNs to have an expanded role in nursing education and help reduce barriers to training. We were grateful that the Task Force included this WHA policy proposal in their final recommendations.

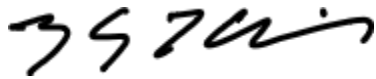
Thank you, Chair Malak, for leading the Board of Nursing's emergency rules process to make this rule available as efficiently as possible, as we suggested in our [April 2025 letter to the Board](#). WHA and our partners in nursing leadership and nursing education alerted you to an opportunity for the Board of Nursing to better align state minimum standards for nursing schools to accreditation standards, to break down barriers to individuals wanting to pursue a nursing career, and to offer experienced BSNs an opportunity to pursue an expanded role in education.

Wisconsin's high-quality health care system is reliant on our exceptional nursing workforce; nurses who are prepared by our educational institutions and supported through our state's hospitals and health systems. As we recently stated in a [press release](#), a list compiled by [Becker's Hospital Review](#) using the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems [data](#) shows 44 Wisconsin hospitals earned five-star ratings for nurse communication—the most of any state of any size. Pennsylvania ranked second with 42 hospitals, followed by Texas with 33 and Ohio with 32. Wisconsin's high quality healthcare is an economic

advantage to other industries across the state who depend on high-quality healthcare for employees and their families.

Wisconsin is certainly not alone in grappling with a shortage of nurses to fill open positions. Yet, Wisconsin hospitals and health systems, and their partners in state government and education, have a great tradition of collaborating to advance policies that will help us address this challenge through a variety of productive policies. Thank you for your continued partnership and support in opening the door to a nursing career for more students in Wisconsin through the approval of Emergency Rule N1 Faculty Standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K O'Brien", written in a cursive style.

Kyle O'Brien,
President and CEO
Wisconsin Hospital Association

cc: DSPS Secretary Dan Hereth