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TO: Jennifer L. Malak, Chair
Wisconsin Board of Nursing

FROM: Ann Zenk, Senior Vice President Workforce and Clinical Practice
Wisconsin Hospital Association

DATE: September 10, 2026

RE: Supporting an Expanded Role for Baccalaureate-Prepared Nurses as Clinical Faculty

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) and our over 150 members are writing in support of the Board of Nursing order to amend N 1.08 (3) (b) 1.; and to create N 1.08 (3) (d) 4., relating to faculty accreditation standards. This rule allows Wisconsin to lead the way, once again, by permanently 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 in August of an emergency rule for 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.

Thank you, Chair Malak and Board, for utilizing the emergency rules process to make this rule available as efficiently as possible, and for the Board's work to draft a permanent rule that creates safe and attainable boundaries for baccalaureate-prepared nurses who wish to serve as clinical faculty and nursing schools that want to utilize their expertise. We support adoption of the permanent rule draft.

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 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 secure and sustain a sufficient nursing and health care workforce. 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 the proposed 1.08 (3) (b) 1. revisions and the creation of N 1.08 (3) (d) 4 as part of Administrative Rule Chapter N1 Faculty Standards.