

WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, INC.



SHORT DEADLINE

Date: January 17th, 2018

To: Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature

From: Eric Borgerding, President/CEO
Kyle O'Brien, Senior Vice President Government Relations

Re: Support LRB 4332 to Reduce Cost, Utilization of Emergency Room Care in Medicaid

Wisconsin's hospitals are increasingly a core partner in developing solutions to strengthen population health, promote wellness and encourage appropriate use of health care services among our state's citizens. Several WHA members have instituted programs to better transition individuals who frequent hospital emergency departments as their medical home to a primary care provider or appropriate community care agency. These intensive care coordination programs leverage the role of emergency department providers in the care management process as an effective tool to better coordinate care for patients, especially those super-utilizers of the hospital emergency department with chronic conditions.

Over 10,000 Wisconsin Medicaid recipients use a hospital emergency department seven times or more in a twelve month period. Nearly 3,300 of these Medicaid beneficiaries have used a hospital emergency department seven times or more in **both** 2015 **and** 2016. The current interventions for care management are not enough to successfully manage this high-utilizer population. WHA members believe there is a better way, enabled through LRB 4332, to meet the needs of these patients and ensure that the patient can successfully participate in Wisconsin's current Medicaid managed care model.

WHA estimates that these high-utilizer emergency department visits alone account for **\$52 million** in cost to the Medicaid program on an annual basis. Provider intensive care coordination programs within hospital emergency departments have shown strong promise in reducing utilization of the emergency department, connecting patients with primary care providers and improving care outcomes for patients.

In partnership with the legislative authors of LRB 4332, Wisconsin's hospitals and health systems are identifying a utilization and care management gap in our Medicaid program and developing a proactive solution to address that problem. These types of innovative reforms from Wisconsin's hospitals and health systems should come as no surprise, since Wisconsin consistently ranks as having the highest quality health care in the country and has led the nation in health care delivery reform.

LRB 4332 allows our state to lead again, by leveraging Wisconsin's highly integrated health care delivery system to the benefit of Medicaid enrollees and Wisconsin taxpayers by incenting intensive care coordination services in emergency departments. These programs have already been proven by WHA members to reduce costs and deliver better care for patients. LRB 4332 will provide resources for more Wisconsin hospitals to use this successful and innovative model for Medicaid enrollees.

WHA asks you to co-sponsor LRB 4332, authored by Rep. Rodriguez, Rep. Sanfelippo and Sen. Darling to implement an intensive care coordination Medicaid pilot program to implement these effective and cost-saving care delivery models by hospitals and health systems across Wisconsin.

Deadline for co-sponsorship is January 18th, 2018.