

Vol. 14, Issue 3

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

## WHA Joins RWHC in Washington, DC



On February 11, WHA joined the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative (RWHC) with a group of rural hospital and health care leaders to urge Wisconsin's Congressional leaders on Capitol Hill to support Wisconsin's rural health care priorities.

Joining the group were Jon Eich, Director of the WI Office of Rural Health; Bob Van Meeteren, President and CEO, Reedsburg Area Medical Center; Chris Brophy, CEO of Crossing Rivers Health Medical Center, Prairie du Chien; Chris Brabant, President and CEO, Stoughton Health; Mike Schafer, CEO, Spooner Health; Dr. Michelle Clark-Forsting, MD, Chief Physician Executive, Black River Health; Brad Wolters, Director of Federal Government Relations, Marshfield Clinic Health System; Jeremy Levin, Director of Advocacy, RWHC; Jon Hoelter, Vice President of Federal and State Relations, WHA.

The group advocated for the following priorities:

- The importance of federal approval for Wisconsin Medicaid changes enacted in the most recent state budget.
- Requesting an exemption for Health Care from H-1B Visa new fees of \$100,000.
- Protecting the 340B prescription drug discount program from new restrictions like data reporting requirements requested by drug companies.

Thanking members of our Congressional Delegation for signing onto the *Improving Seniors Timely Access to Care Act* (currently cosponsored by Reps. Grothman, Moore, Pocan, and Van Orden and Senator Baldwin) and urging the rest of the delegation to do the same.

The group of rural health leaders also thanked Wisconsin's Congressional Delegation members for their support of recent legislation to fund the health care extenders package, including an extension of the Medicare-Dependent and Low-Volume Hospital Adjustment programs through the end of 2026, an extension of telehealth waivers through the end of 2027 and the extension of the Hospital at Home program through 2030.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Wisconsin's Health Care Workforce is Growing, But Not Fast Enough to Meet Rising Demand
- Wisconsin Hospital Association Advocacy Day Draws 1,100 Advocates From Across Wisconsin
- "It's Not a Spectator Sport"
- Bipartisan Leaders Tackle Budget, Medicaid and Workforce at Advocacy Day
- WHA's 2026 Health Care Quality Showcase in the Capitol Rotunda
- WHA Makes End-of-Session Push to Move Next-of-Kin Across the Finish Line
- Governor Tony Evers, Rep. Clint Moses Receive 2026 Health Care Advocate of the Year Awards from WHA
- WHA Joins RWHC in Washington, DC
- CDC Notes National Health Care-Associated Infections Decline; Wisconsin's Latest CheckPoint Data Shows Even Stronger Local Gains
- Register for Substance Use Disorders Management Boot Camp

### EDUCATION EVENTS

Mar. 12, 2026

Spring 2026 Annual Survey Training

**Mar. 13, 2026**

2026 Physician Leadership Development Conference

**Mar. 16, 2026**

Wisconsin Rural Health and Substance Use Clinical Support (RHeSUS) Program Offerings