



## ADVOCACY DAY

### Legislative Visit Talking Points

#### TELL YOUR STORY

- The most important outcome for your visit is that legislators and their staff see you, a constituent, in their office and know that you are attending Advocacy Day because you support your local hospital.
- Be sure to introduce yourself with your name, city/village/town where you live, and your affiliation with your local hospital or health system.
- Bring context to why your local hospital is important to you. For example, how has your hospital been there for you, your family and your community? What services does your hospital provide to your community that would otherwise go unmet?

#### STATE BUDGET THANK YOU

**ASK: Thank lawmakers for their timely and historic commitment to hospitals and health care providers in the last state budget.**

- Hospitals care for patients regardless of their ability to pay and are the largest provider of services to Medicaid recipients.
- Wisconsin hospitals are reimbursed only 63% of their cost to deliver care to Medicaid patients – a loss of \$1.3 billion annually. These costs are shifted to everyone else, known as the **Hidden Health Care Tax**.
- The last state budget advanced historic Medicaid rate support to hospitals through an expansion of the state's hospital assessment, but we are awaiting federal approval.
- We applaud state legislators for this swift action and response to ensure support for Wisconsin hospitals.

#### WORKFORCE

**ASK: Support strategies to break down barriers to entering and remaining in the health care workforce.**

- Wisconsin's 2026 Health Care Workforce Report shows that we continue to make progress in reducing vacancy rates, but demographics also continue to work against us.
- Even with progress made in addressing rising workforce demand, burdensome insurance company requirements and unnecessary or overly complex regulations are such that, despite the progress made, the healthcare workforce is falling behind and causing stress to our healthcare system.
- Lawmakers can help bolster the health care workforce by addressing barriers to entering and remaining in the health care workforce - including legal, regulatory and payer barriers - that hinder workplace culture and workforce well-being.

#### DELAYED DISCHARGES

**ASK: Support Next-of-Kin Legislation (Assembly Bill 598 and Senate Bill 578)**

- Hospitals provide acute-level care until a patient is ready to be discharged either to home or another post-acute care facility (i.e. nursing home, assisted living, community-based residential facility, etc.). However, current law restricts the ability for family members to transfer incapacitated loved ones from a hospital to a more appropriate post-acute care facility.
- *Next-of-Kin* legislation will empower family members to help get their loved ones the care they need in a nursing home or assisted living facility without going through a lengthy and expensive court-ordered guardianship process if they become incapacitated and do not have a Power of Attorney for Health Care.
- Longer waits for post-acute care placements cause incapacitated patients to needlessly wait in the hospital for weeks despite a more appropriate care setting being available. In turn, this will also help hospitals free up beds for patients that truly need hospital care by helping to get patients who no longer need to be there in a more appropriate setting.