



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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October 11, 2016

Rural Legislators Join to Propose Solutions for Rural Health Care Access

New Rural Wisconsin Initiative Legislation Focuses on Health Care

Madison, WI – A group of 23 Republican legislators hailing primarily from rural areas across the state announced the second phase of the Rural Wisconsin Initiative with legislation that aims to improve health care access in all corners of Wisconsin.

The package, which is supported by the Wisconsin Hospital Association, the Rural Wisconsin Health Care Cooperative, and other health care oriented organizations, will fund a number of items, including residency programs for rural physicians, training consortia for allied health professionals – such as physical therapists and certified nursing assistants, clinical training programs for Advanced Practice Clinicians, and wellness programs in rural areas.

“Over the last few months, we’ve had extensive talks with health-care related groups,” said Rep. Quinn. “Wisconsin has excellent health care, but our rural areas need support in sectors where hospitals are short-staffed or otherwise in need. Wisconsin is facing a looming shortage of doctors and staff in rural areas, and this package addresses those unique needs.

“We know that medical professionals who have exposure to rotations in rural areas are more likely to stay in those areas. These bills will help ensure that we build on that reputation by encouraging young health care professionals to live, work, and train in our rural communities.”

To view the plan or offer suggestions, please visit www.RuralWisconsinInitiative.com.

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