



Strengthen Wisconsin's Health Care Workforce
Expand Successful Partnerships to Other Providers

Highlights

Wisconsin's health care workforce is critical to maintaining the high quality, high value health care we all depend on. Governor Walker and the state legislature have shown a commitment to helping address the workforce needs that exist in Wisconsin and have developed innovative public policy solutions that lean on private-public partnerships with WHA members.

As the legislature develops the state budget, WHA members believe it is important to expand these successful initiatives for physician training by leveraging this model for other types of health care professionals, including advanced practice clinicians and allied health professionals.

Key Points

Graduate Medical Education

- While Wisconsin has made progress to address the physician shortage that our state faces, we have a long way to go to meet the needs that exist. According to the most recent report from the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce, the state still needs to add several thousand physicians by 2035 to meet future patient care needs with an aging physician workforce.
- According to a well-documented report from WHA, data shows that 86 percent of medical students from Wisconsin, who attend a medical school in Wisconsin and have their residency in this state will ultimately stay in Wisconsin to practice. Investing in residency programs is one effective, if not the most effective way to increase the number of physicians practicing in this state.
- In 2013, Governor Walker proposed and the legislature adopted a \$5 million investment in Graduate Medical Education (physician residencies) to create new residency programs and expand existing programs. This 50/50 match by the state has led to the creation of 10 new residency programs and 79 new residents in 34 Wisconsin counties.

WHA Position

State legislators need to expand successful efforts to increase physician residencies in Wisconsin. State lawmakers should invest an additional \$1.5 million in this budget, which comes with a matching investment from WHA members, for the creation of new Graduate Medical Education programs.

Rural Wisconsin Initiative's Focus on Health Care

- Recently, a bipartisan group of lawmakers released four companion bills to expand the health care workforce in rural communities, provide state support for successful quality improvement initiatives and incent the creation of medical wellness programs in rural, underserved areas. This legislation is part of a package of bills known as the Rural Wisconsin Initiative (RWI).

workforce nsg shortage
pivotal role of CNA

- The RWI health care workforce proposals include two components:

- **Assembly Bill 227 & Senate Bill 161** – this bill, modeled after the successful Graduate Medical Education proposal put forward by Governor Walker in 2013, would create a matching grant program for the training of advanced practice nurses and physician assistants in rural communities. Eighty percent of counties with a hospital vacancy for advanced practice clinicians are experiencing a vacancy rate that exceeds 10%. Consider Compensation

Currently, government provides funding to offset the costs of physician training – but government does not support the training of advanced practice clinicians, who are becoming increasingly important to improving access to care.

- **Assembly Bill 224 & Senate Bill 165** – this bill would provide training grants for hospitals, health systems and educational entities that wanted to form an allied health professional training consortia. Allied health professionals, which include professions such as surgical technicians, medical assistants and pharmacy technicians, all serve a critical function on a patient's care team and are increasingly important in patient-centered, team-based care. Consider CNA

- In addition to these workforce training proposals, the RWI includes two other bills that will give health care providers tools to improve the quality of care they provide and increase access to medical wellness programs.

- **Senate Bill 162** – this bill would provide a grant of \$100,000 per year to the Wisconsin Hospital Foundation Quality Improvement Fund to increase participation by rural hospitals in quality improvement activities or broaden the scope of services provided by the nationally-recognized quality improvement program.

- **Assembly Bill 222 & Senate Bill 164** – this bill would provide one-time matching grants of up to \$250,000 to rural Wisconsin hospitals or health systems for the creation of wellness facilities or wellness programs in rural Wisconsin. The facilities or programs would need to focus on specific community needs, including chronic illness management, occupational health services, rehabilitation services and wellness and prevention services.

Population Health

WHA Position

The Joint Finance Committee should adopt in the state budget the nationally-recognized proposals being put forward by a group of bipartisan lawmakers through the Rural Wisconsin Initiative. These bills provide additional investments for training advanced practice clinicians and allied health professionals, along with additional investments to enhance rural quality improvement initiatives and population health.