



ADVOCATE. ADVANCE. LEAD.

5510 Research Park Drive
Fitchburg, WI 53711
608.274.1820 | FAX 608.274.8554
www.wha.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 19, 2023
CONTACT: Erin Voelkel (press@wha.org)

WHA ADVOCACY DAY BRINGS IN NEARLY 1,000 PARTICIPANTS

Advocates from across the state gathered to meet lawmakers in the Capitol and discuss issues impacting Wisconsin hospitals

MADISON, Wis. – Nearly 1,000 hospital and health care leaders, providers, staff and trustees participated in Wisconsin Hospital Association’s (WHA) annual Advocacy Day today, the first held in person since the pandemic. Former governors Jim Doyle and Tommy G. Thompson were keynote speakers at the event that also included an address by current Gov. Tony Evers, a bipartisan state legislative panel with Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam), Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee), State Sen. LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee) and State Sen. Pat Testin (R-Stevens Point).



Former Govs. Tommy G. Thompson (left) and Jim Doyle (right) speak alongside WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding (middle) at Advocacy Day program.

In addition to the program, Advocacy Day grassroots advocates also visited state senators and representatives at the Wisconsin State Capitol, calling on the State Legislature to discuss solutions to health care funding and workforce shortages Wisconsin hospitals have faced for the past several years. Leaders from across the state also educated lawmakers on how hospitals have cared for Wisconsin communities, despite challenges to keep staff and patients safe with rising labor and supply costs. Tying in this year’s Advocacy Day theme – *Stronger Hospitals. Stronger Communities.* – the meetings with lawmakers reiterated the message that to strengthen Wisconsin’s communities, we need to strengthen Wisconsin’s hospitals.

“Having strong hospitals across our state that provide quality health care is essential to the vitality of our communities,” **said WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding**. “Wisconsin Hospital Association's Advocacy Day sends a powerful message to lawmakers and communities alike to support local hospitals the way Wisconsin hospitals support them. Wisconsin hospitals provide a life-saving safety net, and with rising costs and a looming workforce shortage, much needs to be done to ensure our hospitals and health systems can continue to provide much-needed services to people in every corner of the state.”



Nearly 1,000 hospital and health care leaders, providers, staff, trustees and volunteers from across Wisconsin gathered in Madison for Advocacy Day 2023.

Wisconsin hospitals and health systems, of which 92% are non-profit, continue to provide quality services while filling social and public health gaps across the state. Wisconsin’s hospitals have done an exceptional job navigating ongoing extreme challenges to support their communities. Strain on resources and health care workforce shortages pose unprecedented challenges that threaten access to care and the health of Wisconsinites.

###

ABOUT THE WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

WHA advocates on behalf of its 130-plus member hospitals and health systems to enable the delivery of high-quality, high-value care to the citizens of Wisconsin. Learn more at wha.org.