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

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CONTACT: Erin Voelkel (press@wha.org)

Governor Evers Signs WHA-Initiated Bipartisan Psychiatric Hospital Bill into Law

*Bill addresses a 1960's-era prohibition on psychiatric hospitals receiving
Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement*

MADISON, Wis. — Governor Tony Evers today signed into law Assembly Bill 616, which was led by Rep. Karen Hurd (R-Fall Creek) and Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), enabling Wisconsin to seek a waiver to a 1960's-era federal Medicaid policy that prohibits psychiatric hospitals with more than 16 beds from participating in the traditional Medicaid fee-for-service program for adults.

“WHA thanks Governor Evers for signing Assembly Bill 616 into law today, a bipartisan bill initiated by WHA that will help remove an outdated regulatory barrier impacting access to mental health care in Wisconsin,” said WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding. “WHA looks forward to continuing important work with the Governor and Legislature to address regulatory and payment policy complexities unique to mental health and substance use disorder services that make the sustainability of these services especially challenging in Wisconsin despite the great need for those services.”

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ABOUT THE WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

WHA advocates on behalf of its 140-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.