

## WISCONSIN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

December 13, 2017



The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

As leaders of not-for-profit hospitals and health systems across the state of Wisconsin, we write today to ask you to preserve the tax exemption afforded to private activity bonds (PABs), including for qualifying 501(c)(3) hospital bonds.

In the U.S. House of Representatives-approved tax reform legislation, H.R. 1, the tax exemption for PABs is repealed. However, the U.S. Senate-approved tax bill retains the exemption for PABs. As leadership from both chambers of Congress along with their respective conferees continue to discuss and deliberate over the legislation, our organizations ask for your support of the Senate position on PABs.

PABs play a critical role in helping not-for-profit hospitals and health systems access low-cost capital through lower interest rates. As a result, the savings generated from these reduced interest rates are then used to keep infrastructure expenditures down, which can then be used to expand out access and services further into communities throughout Wisconsin.

When Congress originally established PABs, hospitals were among those included because of their importance to their local communities and their mission of serving the public good. That is why we are perplexed by the rationale used in the U.S. House Ways & Means Committee summary of this provision, which equates our organizations' collective purpose – to serve as the health care infrastructure and safety net in the most rural to urban areas of the state – to private business with “similar creditworthiness.” Further, we believe that eliminating the tax-exemption for PABs will do nothing but increase costs for our organizations and others across the country.

We do not see the rationale for nor the wisdom of this policy and, therefore, ask you to retain the tax exemption for PABs, including for qualifying 501(c)(3) hospitals bonds, in the final negotiated package. We also ask that you work to eliminate or at least moderate – through a change in the effective date – the provision eliminating advance refunding bonds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Travis Andersen'.

Travis Andersen  
Regional President - South Region  
Ascension WI

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sandy Anderson'.

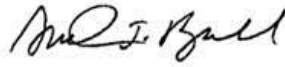
Sandy Anderson  
President of Ascension  
St. Mary's & Ascension  
Howard Young

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Imran A. Andrabi'.

Imran Andrabi, MD  
President/CEO  
ThedaCare



Sharla Baenen  
President/CEO  
Bellin Psychiatric Center –  
Green Bay



Andy Bagnall  
President/CEO  
HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital



Jeff Bard  
North Regional Market  
President  
Aurora Health Care



Javon Bea  
President/CEO  
Mercyhealth



Eric Borgerding  
President/CEO  
Wisconsin Hospital Association



Tom Borowski  
President  
Hudson Hospital & Clinic

**Jim**

James Braun  
Chief Administrative  
Officer/CFO  
Flambeau Hospital



Terry Brenny  
President/CEO  
Stoughton Hospital Association



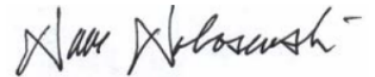
Julie Chikowski  
Administrator  
Memorial Hospital of  
Lafayette Co.



Nicole Clapp  
President/CEO  
Grant Regional Health Center



Michael Decker  
President/CEO  
Divine Savior Healthcare



Dave Dobosenski  
CEO  
St. Croix Regional  
Medical Center



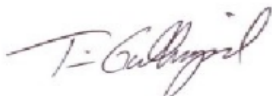
Jason Douglas  
President/CEO  
Memorial Medical Center of  
Ashland



Jeff Euclide  
CEO  
Rusk County Memorial Hospital



Danielle Gearhart  
CEO  
Gundersen St. Joseph's  
Hospital and Clinics



Timothy Gullingsrud  
CEO  
Hayward Area Memorial Hospital  
& Water's Edge



Mike Gutsch  
CEO  
Cumberland Healthcare



Patrick Hammer  
President/CEO  
Rogers Behavioral Health  
System, Inc.

Edward Harding  
President/CEO  
Bay Area Medical Center

David Hartberg  
CEO  
Gundersen Boscobel  
Area Hospital

Richard Helmers, MD  
Regional VP  
Mayo Clinic Health System

Mark Herzog  
President/CEO  
Holy Family Memorial Inc.

Matthew Heywood  
CEO  
Aspirus

Monica Hilt  
President  
Ascension St. Elizabeth Hospital

Terry Jacobson  
Administrator/COO  
Essentia Health St. Mary's  
Hospital - Superior

Catherine Jacobson  
President/CEO  
Froedtert Health

Timothy Johnson, MD  
President/CEO  
Mayo Clinic Health System-  
Franciscan Healthcare in  
La Crosse

Alan Kaplan, MD  
CEO  
UW Health

Richard Kellar  
President  
Aurora West Allis  
Medical Center

George Kerwin  
President/CEO  
Bellin Health System

Cathie Kocourek  
President  
Aurora Medical Center -  
Manitowoc County

Ben Layman  
President  
SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital  
- Janesville

Shawn Lerch  
CEO  
Sauk Prairie Healthcare

Gordy Lewis  
CEO  
Burnett Medical Center

Steve Little  
President/CEO  
Agnesian HealthCare

Julie Manas  
President/CEO  
HSHS Western WI Division



Steve Massey  
President/CEO  
Westfields Hospital & Clinic



Timothy McKeve  
President/CEO  
Beloit Health System



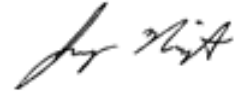
Kim Miller  
President/CEO  
Beaver Dam Community  
Hospitals, Inc.



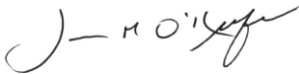
Ryan Neville  
President/CEO  
Memorial Medical Center



John Newman, MD  
President  
Aurora Medical Center  
in Oshkosh



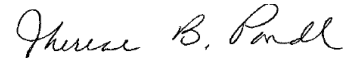
Jeremy Normington-Slay  
Regional President, North  
Central Region  
Ascension WI



James O'Keefe  
President/CEO  
Mile Bluff Medical Center



Charisse Oland  
CEO  
SHS St. Joseph's Hospital



Therese Pandl  
President/CEO  
SHS Eastern WI Division



Douglas Peterson  
President/CEO  
Chippewa Valley Hospital



Scott Rathgaber, MD  
CEO  
Gundersen Health System



John Robertstad  
CEO & Chief Community  
Liaison  
Rehabilitation Hospital of  
Wisconsin



Bruce Roesler  
CEO  
The Richland Hospital, Inc.



Dan Rohrbach  
President/CEO  
Southwest Health



Debra Rudquist  
President/CEO  
Amery Hospital & Clinic



John Russell  
President/CEO  
Columbus Community Hospital



Mike Schafer  
CEO  
Spooner Health



Lisa Schnedler  
President/CEO  
Upland Hills Health, Inc.



William Sexton  
CEO  
Crossing Rivers Health  
Medical Center



Bernie Sherry  
Senior Vice President  
Ascension Health  
Ministry Market Executive



Tim Size  
Executive Director  
Rural Wisconsin  
Health Cooperative



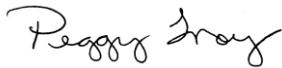
Debra Standridge  
Regional President-North Region  
Ascension WI



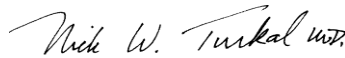
Phil Stuart  
CEO  
Tomah Memorial Hospital



Seth Teigen  
President  
Ascension Franklin &  
Ascension St. Francis



Peggy Troy  
President/CEO  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin




Nick Turkal, MD  
President/CEO  
Aurora Health Care



Susan Turney, MD  
CEO  
Marshfield Clinic Health  
System Inc.



Robert Van Meeteren  
CEO  
Reedsburg Area Medical Center



Michael Wallace  
President/CEO  
Fort HealthCare



Mary Beth White Jacobs  
CEO  
Black River Memorial  
Hospital, Inc.