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TO: Members of the Wisconsin State Legislature
FROM: Eric Borgerding, President/CEO
Kyle O'Brien, Senior Vice President Government Relations
DATE: October 1, 2018
RE: WI Ranks Among Top U.S. States, First in Midwest for Health Care Access and Patient Safety

The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued its [State Snapshots](#) ranking this past week, naming Wisconsin fourth in the nation for highest overall health care quality among all 50 states and first in the Midwest. AHRQ's State Snapshots web tool helps state health leaders, researchers, consumers, and others understand the status of health care quality in states, including each state's strengths.

WHA has been proud to partner with the legislature on public policy initiatives which support the ability for our members to achieve some of the highest rankings in the country for health care quality. These initiatives, which have strengthened our state's health care workforce, encouraged additional provider care coordination, protected peer review processes and ensured a balanced medical liability system, have all contributed to the high-quality health care that Wisconsin enjoys today.

Wisconsin Quality Ranks Top in the Midwest & Fourth Highest in the Nation AHRQ State Snapshots – 2018 Scores	
Maine	72.53
New Hampshire	69.77
Rhode Island	68.89
Wisconsin	68.29
Massachusetts	67.48
Pennsylvania	65.38
Iowa	64.17
Minnesota	63.87
Vermont	62.87
North Carolina	62.20

The AHRQ uses more than 120 statistical measures to evaluate health care performance across care settings, including access to care and patient safety. AHRQ began issuing its State Snapshots in 2006, and Wisconsin has consistently ranked in the top four states in 10 of 12 years (AHRQ did not issue a report in 2012) – and was ranked first in the nation in 2006, 2008, and 2017. Wisconsin was ranked second in the U.S. in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2015.

Providers, administrators, patients, and families are working together in effective partnerships, across care settings locally and regionally – and that shows. Wisconsin is a national leader and is known for its high-quality, high-value health care. These rankings reflect not only outstanding performance today, but more importantly, a trend spanning over a decade demonstrating a sustained commitment to affordable, accessible, quality health care that our members deliver each and every day.

Earlier this year, the federal Health Resources and Services Administration announced that Wisconsin's rural Critical Access Hospitals were again ranked among the best hospitals in the nation, according to the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Program. The program ranks states based on quality data reporting and performance.

Wisconsin continues to be a leader in health care transparency in both price and quality. [CheckPoint](#), a website developed by WHA, includes clinical quality data that all Wisconsin hospitals voluntarily report to WHA. This is a quality transparency tool to be used by constituents, businesses and other health care providers to compare relevant health care quality metrics and inform their health care decisions.

For more information, please contact Kyle O'Brien at (608) 274-1820 or kobrien@wha.org.