

**SAMPLE LETTER FOR STATE LEGISLATORS
TO SEND TO WISCONSIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**

The Honorable [insert Member of Congress]:

Wisconsin has much to be proud of with respect to the value of our health care, and we continue to be at the forefront nationally when compared to other states. In fact, the Commonwealth Fund and the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality have both ranked Wisconsin among the nation's leaders in health care quality. Therefore, I am writing to ask you to carefully consider proposals that come before Congress that would negatively impact the delivery of high value care in our state.

Wisconsin hospitals and health systems continue to be national leaders on voluntary and proactive public reporting of quality measures, including through the Wisconsin Hospital Association's CheckPoint website (www.checkpoint.org). A recent quality and patient safety initiative Wisconsin hospitals have embraced is the Partners for Patients, a national initiative supported by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The goal of this initiative is to reduce inpatient harm by 40% and readmissions by 20% over a 3-year period. To date, 125 Wisconsin hospitals have voluntarily agreed to participate.

At the same time, many health care providers are aggressively working on other innovative reform initiatives, including health home, care management, care collaboration and pay-for-performance that seek to increase quality and the delivery of cost-effective care. Through these efforts, hospitals and health care providers are able to achieve better results for patients in our communities and improve health care value for all consumers and payers in Wisconsin.

With this in mind, I am asking you to carefully consider the decisions you will make in the coming months to ensure they do not negatively impact access to and the delivery of health care in the communities we represent.

Respectfully,