



## Address Hospital and Health System Financial Crisis

Minnesota's hospitals and health systems continue to struggle with the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and an exponential rise in labor and supply costs. By preserving existing federal investments and pursuing opportunities for new funding, hospitals and health systems can continue to serve our communities 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

- Increase access to affordable health care coverage.
- Streamline and enhance value-based care initiatives.
- Explore new federal hospital designations to provide targeted resources and support.
- Increase investment in the long-term care continuum.
- Improve oversight of Medicare Advantage practices and policies.
- Prevent Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payment cuts scheduled to begin in 2024.

## Strengthen the Health Care Workforce

Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are admitting an increased volume of patients and struggling with a burned-out and shrinking health care workforce. Emergency federal support has helped provide immediate relief for health care providers and increase bed capacity, but Congress needs to commit to our health care workforce by investing in its future.

- Provide additional funding for federal workforce development and education programs.
- Add additional graduate medical education and children's graduate medical education positions.
- Improve the immigration visa process for health care professionals.
- Establish legal protections from assault and intimidation for health care professionals.

*Nearly one in four  
job vacancies in  
Minnesota are in  
health care.*

# 2023 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE FOCUS AREAS



Minnesota Hospital Association

## Expand the Mental Health Care System

Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are dedicated to providing appropriate care for individuals with mental health needs and substance use disorders.

- Increase access and affordability of community mental health services and supports, especially in rural areas.
- Ensure mental health payment parity.

*Before the pandemic, the capacity of the mental health care system was limited, but now demand far exceeds supply.*

## Protect the 340B Drug Pricing Program

The 340B program has acted as a bridge to affordable prescription drugs for more than three decades. Safety-net and critical access hospitals can purchase drugs at a discount and use those cost savings to help pay for medications for the uninsured and provide additional community services. As intended by Congress, providers have the flexibility to use the cost savings to better adapt to the ever-changing needs of their communities and patients, and many small hospitals rely on the financial benefit to maintain their operations.

- Maintain this successful program and allow for eligibility flexibilities due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19.
- Fight back against big pharma abuse, which threatens the long-term viability of the program.

**patient needing care**



**discounted outpatient medications**



**improved access to care for all patients**



**340B safety-net hospital**



**outpatient savings**

