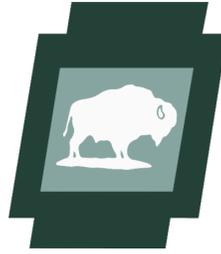


# News Briefs

February 13, 2026

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## Wyoming Hospital Association

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## Legislative Session Update

The 2026 Wyoming Legislative Session is well underway, and the Wyoming Hospital Association has been busy at the Capitol advocating on behalf of our member hospitals and the patients and communities they serve. With 45 bills under active review, this session is shaping up to be a consequential one for healthcare in Wyoming.

### Progress on Key Healthcare Bills

We are pleased to report meaningful progress on several fronts. The Expanding Physician Access Act (HB 129) has been introduced and referred to the House Labor Committee. Wyoming's physician shortage is a reality felt every day in our hospitals — particularly in rural and frontier communities — and WHA is proud to support this legislation as a practical step toward building a stronger physician pipeline for our state.

On the behavioral health front, legislation establishing contracts for the holding and treatment of mentally ill detainees (SF 10) passed the Senate Committee of the Whole, and WHA is encouraged by its progress. Similarly, bills supporting birthing centers and pregnancy centers cleared the House Committee of the Whole, reflecting the Legislature's continued focus on maternal and reproductive health services.

### Setbacks We Cannot Ignore

Not every development this session has been positive. WHA is deeply disappointed by the failure of legislation that would have increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for maternal services (HB 64) and nursing homes (HB 63). Adequate Medicaid reimbursement is not a luxury — it is a lifeline for hospitals and care facilities serving Wyoming's most vulnerable residents, and we will continue to fight for fair rates.

The narrowest of defeats came for HB 40, a suicide prevention bill that failed by a single vote. This outcome is difficult to accept given the very real toll that suicide takes on Wyoming families and communities. WHA remains committed to this issue and will not let it rest.

### Of Special Interest

HB 88 - Public Funds Lobbying

This bill would have restricted the use of public funds for lobbying activities. Its failure is a positive outcome for WHA members, as it preserves the ability of publicly-funded hospitals and

health systems to engage in legislative advocacy — a critical tool for protecting healthcare interests at the Capitol.

#### HB 131 - Government Membership and Cooperation with Associations

This bill would have restricted government entities from maintaining memberships in — or cooperating with — associations. Had it passed, it could have threatened the ability of publicly-funded hospitals and health systems to maintain their WHA membership, cutting them off from critical advocacy support, education, workforce resources, and collective representation at the Legislature.

#### Looking Ahead

Several bills remain active and under close WHA review, including legislation addressing hospital price transparency (SF 57) which we support, the Wyoming False Claims Act (SF 92), and outpatient behavioral health commitment procedures (SF 23) — the latter of which carries WHA's support.

HB179 contains onerous reporting requirements especially for 340B programs. Because 340B is such a complex and important program, we would like to see this moved to an interim topic.

The session is not over, and much can still change. WHA will continue to monitor developments closely, advocate aggressively for our members, and keep you informed every step of the way. We encourage all WHA members to stay engaged — contact your legislators, share your stories, and remind them of the vital role Wyoming hospitals play in every corner of this state.

For questions or to get involved in WHA's advocacy efforts, contact your WHA government relations representative.

## HHS Issues Updated Interpretation for PRWORA - No Operational Changes Required at This Time

Over the last year, there have been significant changes to the federal government's interpretation and enforcement of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA), a 1996 law that regulates how federal funds can be used in certain programs that may serve or impact non-U.S. citizens. The back-and-forth related to the PRWORA this year has caused significant confusion on its current enforcement status and how that impacts entities that receive federal funds. Below is an update for WHA members.

On July 10, 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an updated interpretation of how to apply the PRWORA. Under this interpretation, healthcare providers would be prohibited from using federal funds to furnish care to undocumented immigrants, individuals with temporary or otherwise unauthorized status, and individuals barred from receiving federal public benefits. Certain categories of care are exempt from these restrictions, including, but not limited to, emergency services, prenatal care, and drug treatment programs.

The [HHS Website](#) explicitly states **is not enforcing this interpretation** due to ongoing court proceedings. As a result, **WHA members do not need to modify operations or restrict services** based on the Administration's updated PRWORA interpretation at this time.

WHA will continue to monitor developments closely. If HHS begins enforcement in the future, WHA will distribute detailed guidance outlining which federal benefit programs are affected and the steps hospitals should take to remain compliant.

If you've been looking for a way to feel better, gain more control over your health, and build confidence in managing a chronic condition, **SageWest Health Care** is making it easier than ever. This winter, SageWest is proudly hosting Healthy U, a FREE six-week workshop designed to empower individuals with chronic health conditions, as well as those who care for them, to live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Held at the Lander Senior Center, this program offers practical tools, supportive community, and expert-guided strategies to help you take meaningful steps toward better well-being. There's never been a better time to invest in yourself.

What Is Healthy U?

**Healthy U** is an evidence-based program that equips participants with the skills and confidence needed to manage ongoing health concerns. The curriculum covers an essential set of real-life topics, including:

- Problem-solving and setting realistic goals
- Healthy eating habits
- Understanding and managing emotions
- Safe, effective exercise
- Action planning
- Evaluating treatment options
- Communicating effectively with healthcare providers

Whether you're managing diabetes, arthritis, heart disease, chronic pain, or caring for someone who is, Healthy U offers guidance tailored to your daily life.

Participants in Healthy U discover tools that create lasting improvements.

- Learn strategies to better manage your health
- Connect with others living with chronic conditions
- Feel healthier and improve quality of life
- Reduce doctor and hospital visits through better self-management

It's practical. It's supportive. And best of all, it's completely free.



## AHA podcast: The FBI's Campaign Against Cyberthreats Part 2

John Riggi, AHA national advisor for cybersecurity and risk, talks with Brett Leatherman, FBI assistant director, Cyber Division, and Gretchen Burrier, FBI assistant director, Office of Private Sector, about how nation-state actors are leveraging cybercriminals and artificial intelligence to disrupt health care. They also discuss how hospitals and health systems of any size can build trusted, local relationships with the FBI before a cyber crisis hits.

[Listen to the Podcast Here](#)





**2026 Wyoming Budget Session**  
**February 9, 2026**

**HFMA Spring Meeting**  
**April 8-10, 2026**  
**Casper, Wyoming**

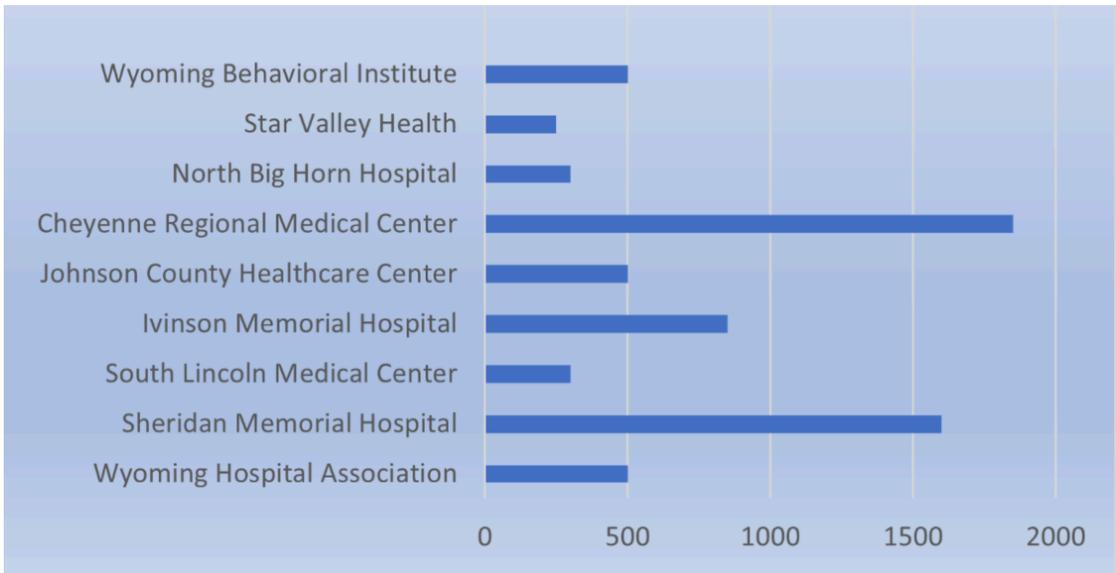
**WHA Trustee/CEO Spring Meeting**  
**May 19, 2026**  
**Best Western Sheridan Center**  
**Sheridan**

**WHA Annual Meeting**  
**September 9-10, 2026**  
**Little America, Cheyenne**



## **WHA PAC Goal for 2026**

### **Contributors**

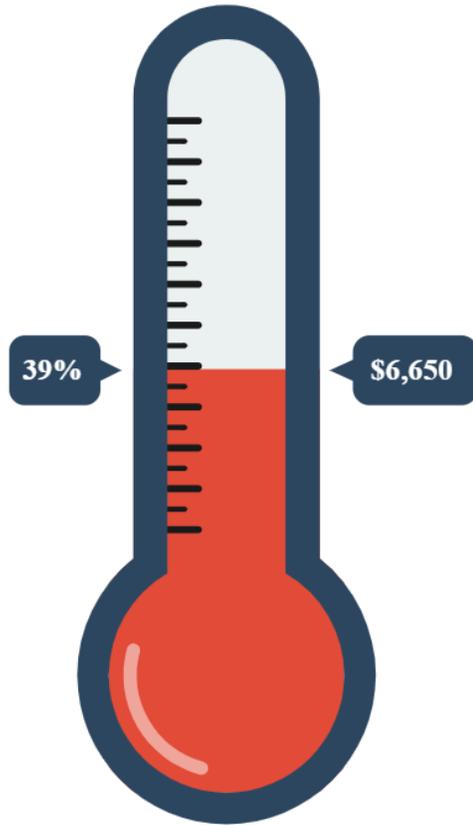


### **WHA PAC**

- Barry Burkart**
- Jenifer Shassetz**
- Dave Ryerse**
- Terry Moss**
- Mike McCafferty**
- Shelli Shelton**
- Joe Wright**
- Tim Thornell**
- Doug Faus**
- Luke Senden**
- Joanna Vilos**
- Robin Roling**

**GOAL: \$17,000**

**Scott Fox  
Darcy Robertson  
Mike Hunsaker  
Mike Phillips**



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