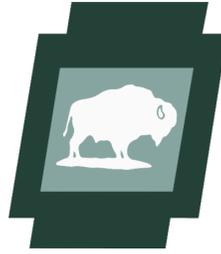


News Briefs

February 20, 2026

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Wyoming Hospital Association

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Legislative Session Update

As the Wyoming Legislature's 2026 Budget Session enters its final days (scheduled to adjourn by March 11), the Wyoming Hospital Association is closely monitoring several critical healthcare bills that will shape the future of hospital operations and rural healthcare delivery across the state.

Price Transparency Legislation: SF 57 Advances with Revised Approach

After last year's House Bill 121 died in the Senate, hospital price transparency has returned in a modified form. Senate File 57, sponsored by Sen. Evie Brennan (R-Cheyenne) and worked on during the interim with WHA, passed the Senate Labor, Health and Social Services Committee 4-0 on February 16 and has passed Committee of the Whole in the Senate. The revised legislation addresses WHA's concerns from the 2025 version by introducing a corrective action process overseen by the Wyoming Department of Health, as opposed to the previous onerous fines and billing penalties included in HB 121 last year. While the new bill does impose fines, it restricts their use to noncompliance with the corrective action process and takes into account the financial realities of our rural hospitals. The Committee also added a sunset provision that would repeal the act effective July 1, 2029, allowing the Legislature to revisit whether state law still aligns with evolving federal regulations. WHA continues to emphasize that Wyoming hospitals already comply with federal transparency requirements and that the Association supports empowering patients with pricing information. WHA believes this is a positive bill that aligns with the federal administration and Wyoming Legislature's price transparency objectives while protecting our hospitals' financial stability.

Budget Battles: Significant Tensions Over Healthcare Funding

The Legislature faces unprecedented budget tensions, with the House filing a record 122 second reading amendments to the budget bill, the largest number in at least 20 years. The Senate adopted a sweeping amendment largely restoring Governor Gordon's original budget proposal, while the House Freedom Caucus-controlled Joint Appropriations Committee has pursued aggressive cuts.

Healthcare programs have been caught in the crossfire, with behavioral health services facing proposed cuts despite a letter from the Wyoming Behavioral Health Alliance signed by 260 providers warning of detrimental effects on Wyoming citizens.

Federal Policy Challenges Continue

The expiration of enhanced ACA premium tax credits at the end of 2025 continues to drive up healthcare costs for Wyoming residents. Between 11,000-20,000 Wyoming residents are projected

to lose coverage due to unaffordable premiums, which will increase uncompensated care burdens on hospitals and emergency departments.

Looking Ahead

With the session scheduled to conclude by the second week of March, WHA is actively engaging with legislators on:

- **Supporting SF 57's balanced approach to price transparency while ensuring implementation is sustainable for rural hospitals**
- **Supporting SF 5 to enable memorial hospitals and hospital districts to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 9 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code**
- **Supporting HB 129's goal of facilitating the licensing of internationally trained physicians to address Wyoming hospitals' workforce needs**
- Monitoring budget amendments that could impact hospital district revenues and healthcare workforce programs

WHA will provide a comprehensive session wrap-up once the Legislature adjourns. For real-time updates on specific bills, visit wyoleg.gov or contact WHA's advocacy team.

Key Bills to Watch

- HB 129 – Expanding Physician Access Act
- SF 5 – Hospital Bankruptcy Proceedings
- SF 57 - Hospital price transparency
- SF 122 – Medical Necessity Standard – Timeline Amendments
- Budget Bill - Final negotiations on healthcare appropriations

For questions or to discuss WHA's legislative positions, please contact the WHA.

HHS Announces Program to Protect Confidentiality of SUD Patient Records

The Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights Feb. 13 **announced** the launch of a program to implement and enforce statutory and regulatory requirements under 42 CFR Part 2, which protect the confidentiality of substance use disorder patient records. As of Feb. 16, the program uses a range of civil enforcement mechanisms, including civil money penalties, to ensure compliance with new provisions from section 3221 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act. This section aligns federal privacy standards for SUD records more closely with those under HIPAA and strengthens confidentiality protections. In compliance with the provisions, HHS OCR has begun accepting complaints of alleged confidentiality violations and SUD record breach notifications.



Wyoming Cares/Wyoming Shares

Transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. It provides hope and life to thousands of people suffering from organ failure. In addition, transplanted tissue offers hundreds of thousands of people an active and renewed life. Close to 120,000 Americans are currently awaiting a life changing organ transplant. The need for organ, eye and tissue donors is increasing every year.

There are approximately 160 Wyoming residents waiting for a life changing organ transplant.

Wyoming Cares/Wyoming Shares is a legislatively mandated program that aims to provide organ, eye, and tissue donation education throughout Wyoming. The program is funded solely by the generous donations of Wyoming residents. In the spirit of helping one another, Wyoming residents are able to show their support of organ and tissue donation by adding a dollar or more to their vehicle registration fees at the time of vehicle tag/plate renewal, or through donating directly to the program. The funds are used to increase opportunities for organ and tissue donation education in Wyoming.

More information on Wyoming Cares/Wyoming Shares can be found here

Medical Solutions Releases Generational Differences White Paper

Medical Solutions, a WHA Resources endorsed vendor, has released a new whitepaper, [Pulse Check: What We're Hearing From Nurses](#), highlighting how generational shifts are reshaping the clinician workforce. Drawing insights from nearly 7,000 nurses and allied health professionals, the report provides actionable strategies to help healthcare leaders strengthen retention, reduce burnout, and plan for the future.



Generational Differences White Paper

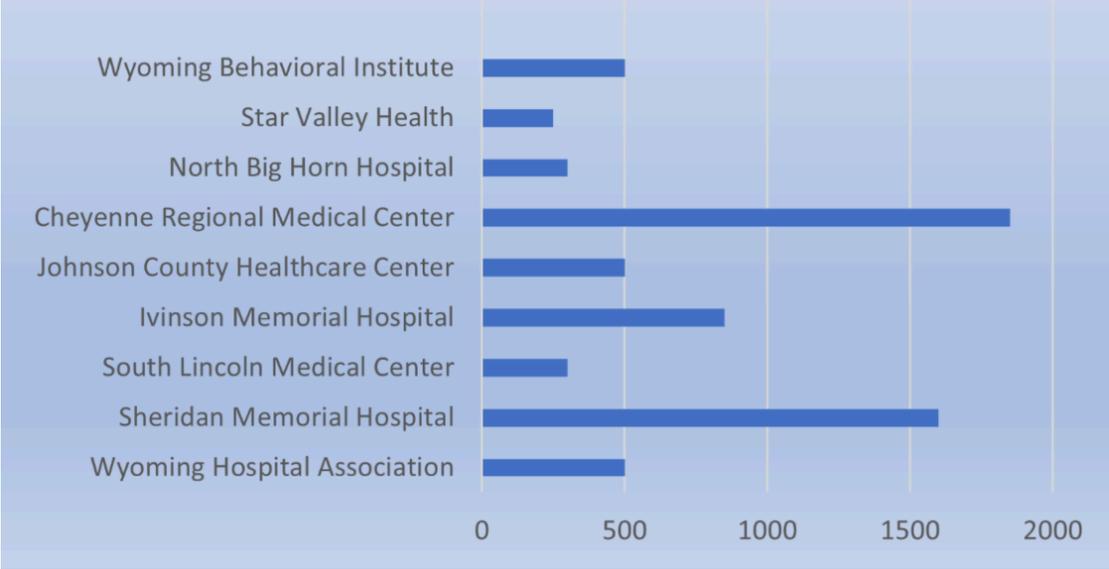


HFMA Spring Meeting
April 8-10, 2026
Casper, Wyoming

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

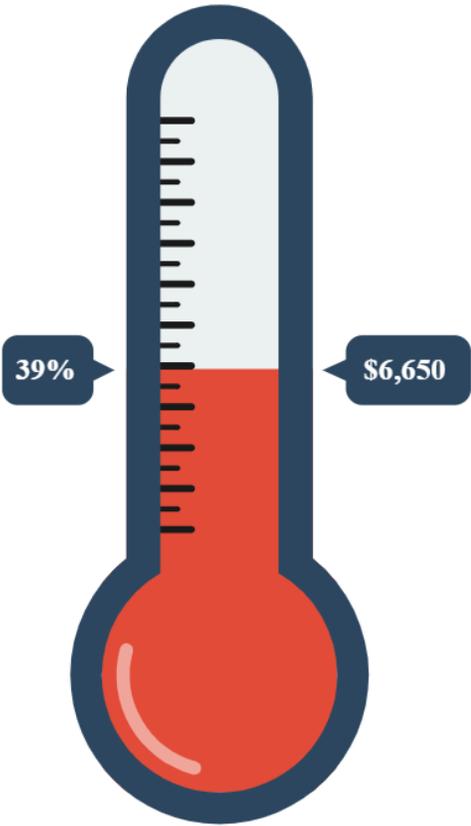
WHA Annual Meeting
September 9-10, 2026
Little America, Cheyenne

WHA PAC Goal for 2026
Contributors



WHA PAC

GOAL: \$17,000



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