WVHA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

December 5, 2025

Interim Committee Activity

As we head into the final weeks of 2025, the WVHA Legislative Team will be closely monitoring several key committee meetings during the upcoming interim period Dec. 7-9 at the State Capitol. Of particular importance to members are the **Joint Health Committee** and the **Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability**, both of which will be addressing issues that directly impact hospital operations and patient care delivery across West Virginia.

- The Joint Health Committee will hear a presentation from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) **re: hospital price transparency, facility fees, and rates.** We anticipate these topics will surface during the upcoming session and we have developed a series of educational materials for our advocacy.
- LOCHHRA will receive an update from the Governor's Office on the **implementation of the Rural Health Transformation Program application**.

The full interim committee schedule is available here. Look for WVHA updates next week.

2026 Legislative Session on the Horizon

The 2026 Regular Legislative Session will convene on **Jan. 14, 2026**, giving us just over a month to finalize our preparations and advocacy strategy. The 60-day session will be critical for addressing many of the financial and operational challenges facing West Virginia hospitals.

WVHA Legislative Agenda Development

The WVHA Legislative Committee has been working diligently to prepare for the upcoming session. Next week, the Committee will be finalizing the 2026 Legislative Agenda for presentation and approval by the WVHA Board of Trustees on **Dec. 18.** A preliminary review of the agenda identifies **four core priority areas** that will guide our advocacy efforts:

1. Ensure Access to Care and Maintain Hospital Financial Viability

Protecting patient access by opposing policies that would limit hospitals' capacity to provide comprehensive services, while working to maintain adequate reimbursement through PEIA and Medicaid programs. Key focus areas include:

- Monitoring the SFY 2027 budget development, including Medicaid, PEIA, and Rural Health Transformation Program funding
- Protecting the 340B Drug Pricing Program from administrative overreach
- Opposing restrictions on facility fees for hospital-based services
- Defending the Certificate of Need program

2. Streamline Regulatory, Administrative and Operational Processes

Promoting policies that reduce regulatory burden and eliminate red tape, allowing hospitals to focus resources on patient care rather than paperwork. Priority initiatives include:

- Simplifying provider enrollment processes for state-regulated health plans
- Modernizing prior authorization requirements

3. Strengthen Community Health

Collaborating with policymakers to address ongoing public health concerns and protect funding for essential services. Focus areas include:

- Reinforcing childhood immunization requirements
- Expanding behavioral health care options and reducing system strain
- Advancing coverage for cancer treatment supportive care (scalp cooling systems)

4. Support Our Health Care Workforce

Advocating for initiatives that strengthen West Virginia's health care workforce through expanded education opportunities and streamlined licensing processes. Key efforts include:

- Pursuing in-state tuition rates for out-of-state students in health professions programs
- Working with the WV Board of Medicine to modernize licensing and credentialing

Additional Tracking Items

WVHA will also be monitoring several stakeholder-initiated proposals and interim study topics, including:

- Cooperative agreements in relation to CON discussions;
- Hospital price transparency proposals stemming from interim discussions this month; and
- EMS Coalition concerns regarding ED patient transfer time limits…just to name a few topics.

WVHA Advocacy Activities

The Association has organized several advocacy activities to ensure strong hospital representation throughout the legislative process, beginning with a *Legislative Preview Reception and Briefing* for WVHA members and legislators this Mon. Dec. 8 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Culture Center in Charleston. If you have not already registered for this event and would like additional information, please contact me. The event coincides with interim meetings.

As for our annual regular session activities, below is a schedule of events planned:

2026 West Virginia Hospital Advocacy Days at the Legislature

Wed., Feb.11, 2026

- Health Care Providers Legislative Reception @ the Culture Center, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Thu., Feb. 12, 2026

- Legislative Breakfast @ the Culture Center, 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
- Hospital Day at the Capitol

Fri, Feb. 13, 2026

- Member Wrap-Up Call 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

These events provide valuable opportunities to build relationships with legislators, share your hospital's perspective, and demonstrate the unified voice of West Virginia's hospital community. We strongly encourage member participation. For more information, please contact me.

How You Can Help

As we enter this critical legislative period, your engagement will be essential to our success. We encourage you to:

- Mark your calendars for the advocacy events listed above and attend;
- Review the priorities outlined above and provide feedback to WVHA staff;
- Prepare to share your hospital's story with legislators about the real-world impact of proposed policies; and
- Stay connected through WVHA communications for action alerts and advocacy opportunities.

Questions?

The finalized 2026 Legislative Agenda will be distributed following Board approval on Dec. 18. For more information about WVHA's legislative priorities or to discuss how you can support our advocacy efforts, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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