

Greetings!

This will be our final Badger Minute newsletter for 2025. At this time of year, many of us are reflecting on the past year and possibly looking at how we have grown or made progress. It is also a time to say thank you to the people who have supported us along the way. ACP Wisconsin has a great deal to be thankful for in 2025. We continue to see increased involvement from our Members in many of our Chapter's committees. Attendance at our Chapter Meeting in September was the highest we have seen in more than ten years and as Governor I am so grateful that many of you are finding a professional home with ACP.

This has been a tumultuous year in the world, and many changes are impacting our life as physicians. While our focus is always on our patients and the power we have to comfort and heal, ACP provides another way to care for our patients and one another through professional advocacy. ACP is our professional home for many reasons, but one of the benefits of ACP membership is the opportunity to amplify your voice by influencing the legislative process.

Please see below **three** opportunities for you to send messages to your state and national legislators about issues that truly matter to Internal Medicine. At the **state level** we are seeking your support for bills that will allow a 12 month post-partum Medicaid expansion, and a new Health Professional Assistance Program to provide confidential mental health support for all health professionals in Wisconsin. At the **federal level**, our national Advocacy team is asking us to contact our Senators and Representatives about the need for a national interest waiver so that physicians are exempted from the new \$100K H-1B Visa fees. Approximately 35% of Internal medicine Physicians in Wisconsin are International Medical Graduates, so this is a key issue for our Chapter.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very happy and healthy holiday season.

Ann

Ann M. Maguire, MD, MPH, FACP
Governor, ACP Wisconsin Chapter

Midwest ACP Rural Medicine Webinar - Register Today!

Join the ACP Chapters Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Michigan on Thursday, December 11 from 6-7PM for the Rural Medical Education Webinar presented by Dr's Lori Rodefild and Joshua Ranum.

What You'll Gain from This Session:

- The real-world challenges of launching rural IM training programs
- How to build, sustain, and grow rural training pathways
- Inspiring models for recruiting and supporting future rural internist

[Register Here!](#)

Wisconsin Legislative Updates

ACP members are encouraged to reach out to their legislators in support of two bills to improve access to healthcare for our patients.

You can use [this link](#) to find your Wisconsin representatives in the Assembly and Senate.

SB 264, “Gail’s Law”

Please contact your Wisconsin Assembly member to support a hearing on SB 264, also known as “Gail’s Law,” which would mandate insurance coverage for supplemental breast cancer screening for individuals with dense breast tissue for whom routine mammography screening is not adequate. [Click here](#) for details of the bill.

This bill has broad bipartisan support and passed the Wisconsin Senate by a vote of 32 to 1 on 10/14/25, but is stalled in the Assembly.

On 11/19/25 SB 264 was referred by Assembly Speaker Robin Vos to the Assembly Committee on Assembly Organization, which Rep. Vos chairs. There is no current scheduled hearing for this bill.

Please contact your Wisconsin Assembly representative and encourage them to advocate for a floor vote on this important provision for appropriate breast cancer screening for high risk patients.

Wisconsin Needs Postpartum Medicaid Coverage - Action Required

Ask Your Wisconsin Representative to Support AB97, which would extend Medicaid coverage postpartum from 60 days to 12 months.

Background: Medicaid finances about 35% of all births in Wisconsin. While U.S. federal law requires states to provide pregnancy-related Medicaid coverage through 60 days postpartum, since 2021 states have had the option to extend Medicaid coverage through a full year postpartum via a state plan amendment. Wisconsin is one of only two states that has not yet adopted this postpartum coverage extension.

Postpartum care includes follow-up on pregnancy complications, management of chronic health conditions, access to family planning, and addressing mental health conditions which affect one in ten postpartum individuals. It is critical to maintain coverage throughout this period. 73% of pregnancy-related deaths in Wisconsin occur postpartum, and women of color and women living in rural areas are disproportionately impacted.

Earlier this year, the Wisconsin Senate passed SB23 which would extend Medicaid coverage for a full year postpartum. Now, the Assembly must act. On November 19, the Assembly version of the bill AB97 was referred by Speaker Robin Vos to the Assembly Committee on Assembly Organization, which Rep. Vos chairs. There is currently no scheduled hearing for these bills.

Action Requested: Please [contact your Wisconsin Assembly representative](#) to advocate for expansion of Medicaid from 60 days to 12 months postpartum.

Stop the Implementation of H-1B Visa Fees - Action Required

Please contact your members of Congress and ask them to urge the Department of Homeland Security to issue an exemption for physicians from H-1B visa fees.

Background

On September 19, 2025, President Trump issued a proclamation entitled, “Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers.” The Proclamation imposes a \$100,000 fee on employers for each initial H-1B application filed after September 21, 2025, including those filed for international medical graduates (IMGs).

Imposing such a steep fee on IMGs requiring H-1B visas will discourage the hiring of these physicians, worsen workforce shortages, and directly compromise patient care. It would also disrupt graduate medical education, undermining the training pipeline for the next generation of physicians.

Section 1(c) of the Proclamation gives the Secretary of Homeland Security discretion to exempt workers whose employment serves the national interest and poses no threat to U.S. security or welfare.

IMGs – including those on J-1 and H-1B visas - comprise approximately 25% of the U.S. physician workforce and are disproportionately represented in underserved communities and rural areas, where workforce shortages are most acute. They play a vital role in ensuring access to care in these areas.

It is projected that the U.S will face a shortage of 86,000 physicians by 2036, these fees will only make the problem worse, which will limit patient access to care.

Action Requested: Please [contact your members of Congress](#) and ask them to urge the Department of Homeland Security to issue an exemption for physicians from H-1B visa fees. A sample message has been provided for you that can be personalized.

Please contact Shuan Tomlinson at stomlinson@acponline.org with any questions about this campaign. Thank you for your continued advocacy.

Wisconsin Medical Society: Wisconsin Health Professional Assistance Program Legislation Circulating for Cosponsors — Physician Advocacy Needed

A [major proposal](#) to establish a **Wisconsin Health Professional Assistance Program (HPAP)** is now being circulated for legislative cosponsors in the State Capitol, and physician engagement will be essential to ensure the bill advances.

The proposal would direct the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to contract with a qualified nonprofit entity to create a confidential, evidence-based program supporting early identification, treatment, and monitoring for affected professionals. Participation can be **voluntary and strictly confidential**, and the bill includes strong safeguards against unauthorized disclosure. The program is built on national best practices and is structured to support clinicians while preserving public safety. As workforce shortages deepen across the state – especially in rural areas – this program represents a proactive, compassionate, and cost-effective strategy to protect both the clinical workforce and the patients who depend on it.

How You Can Help!

1. **Contact your State Assembly Representative and State Senator** as soon as possible.
2. **Urge them to co-sponsor the HPAP legislation** (currently numbered as LRB 3279) and emphasize the importance of confidential, evidence-based support for clinicians.
3. Share your perspective on how workforce burnout, behavioral health challenges, and untreated impairment risks affect both physicians and patients.

For more information, please [click here](#).

ACP, Annals of Internal Medicine Host Forum on Addressing Health Misinformation

ACP and *Annals of Internal Medicine* will present **“Talking with Patients About Mis- and Disinformation”**

Physicians are navigating an increasingly complex landscape where patients’ decisions are influenced by widespread health misinformation. From social media “cures” and dangerous remedies to questionable advice about medications, food, and supplements,

these external claims often conflict with evidence-based medical science—creating tension and confusion in the exam room.

In this forum, a panel of experts will share strategies for talking with patients who encounter misinformation that threatens sound decision-making about their health.

The live event will be recorded and available for viewing on [Annals.org](https://www.annals.org) a few days after the event.

2026 ACP Internal Medicine Meeting - Save the Date!

Join ACP and your colleagues in San Francisco, CA, April 16-18, 2026, at the 2026 ACP Internal Medicine Meeting!

For more information, [visit here.](#)