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# SHANNON ZIMMERMAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 30<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 17, 2017

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## **Representative Zimmerman Supports Rural Wisconsin Hospital Health Care and Workforce Improvement Programs**

**Madison, WI** – Rep. Shannon Zimmerman (R-River Falls) along with Senator Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) began circulating a bill in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate for co-sponsorship that will increase health care workforce and quality improvement projects throughout rural Wisconsin hospitals. Wisconsin is fortunate to have some of the highest quality health care in the country, but we need to give health care providers the tools to support quality improvement in our state continuously.

LRB-2525, which is part of the Rural Wisconsin Initiative, will authorize \$100,000 on an annual basis to the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) Foundation Hospital Quality Improvement Fund to expand the quality improvement work conducted by the Association. Among several ideas considered for future development, WHA's initiatives could include a public awareness campaign to be replicated by hospitals across Wisconsin that would educate patients about responsible prescription drug use.

"This investment in quality improvement will provide additional resources to address the most pressing issues impacting hospitals in my district and many other hospitals across rural Wisconsin," said Zimmerman. "Providing additional tools for hospitals to reduce hospital readmissions, educate patients about our prescription drug epidemic and provide training for care providers to lower hospital-acquired conditions leads to better care, fewer complications and lower costs for our state's patients."

Last week, the WHA released its [annual quality report](#), highlighting the impressive work being done across Wisconsin to reduce hospital-acquired conditions, readmissions, and sepsis mortality. WHA's quality improvement program strengthens the work already being done by Wisconsin hospitals and health systems by encouraging collaboration and promoting best practices.

"It is vital that we help our rural Wisconsin hospitals improve and learn new ways to provide safer care for patients," said Rep. Zimmerman. "This additional funding will allow WHA to work on critical quality improvement programs that will enhance the already high-quality health care we have in Wisconsin."

"The many doctors, nurses, and staff of our Wisconsin hospitals are working tirelessly to make a difference for the patients they see every day," said Rep. Zimmerman. "This bill will help hospitals and staff as they continue to provide great patient outcomes to Wisconsinites."

For more information about the Rural Wisconsin Initiative, please visit [www.RuralWisconsinInitiative.com](http://www.RuralWisconsinInitiative.com).

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