

Sample Board Resolution: Advocacy

For Rural Hospitals

Whereas:

1. Rural hospitals have proven their ability to improve health, reduce illness, and reduce health costs;
2. The survival of our rural hospitals is critically important to the health and well-being of our community;
3. The communities served by rural hospitals have higher proportions of both uninsured persons and individuals covered by Medicaid and Medicare;
4. Rural hospitals are on the front lines of emerging health care crises, providing access to care for mental health patients, addressing the opioid epidemic and responding to public health threats;
5. In the environment in which we are preparing to make the strongest case for hospitals, our participation with and membership in the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA) and the American Hospital Association (AHA) has never been more vital.

Be it resolved that hospital name here, through the work of its Board and its staff:

1. The Board expresses its full and complete commitment to:
 - a. Taking immediate action to educate and inform our staff, board, and patients as to the potential threats which may endanger our rural hospital's ability to serve our patients and communities.
 - b. Educating legislators on the importance of our rural hospital to our patients and the ability of our rural hospital to assist the state and nation in expanding access, preventing illness, and reducing health care expenditures.
 - c. Fully participating with WSHA and AHA to demonstrate to the state and federal governments that rural hospitals like ours are an essential part of Washington State and America's commitment to health care and an essential part of the strategy to deliver effective, efficient and high-quality care.
 - d. Being in regular communication with WSHA to share information on current developments and key action plans.
2. The Board calls upon WSHA and AHA to place the highest priority in advancing policies that support rural hospitals and responding to policies that adversely threaten the care of patients served by rural hospitals.