

PRESS RELEASE

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ASHHRA Announces Advocacy Agenda and Hill Visit May 7-8, 2012

CHICAGO – May 2012 – The American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration (ASHHRA), a personal membership group of the American Hospital Association (AHA), recently announced the 2012 Advocacy Agenda and Hill Visit May 7-8, 2012.

Each year the Advocacy Committee visits representatives and senators in Washington, D.C., to present the ASHHRA position on several key issues that pertain to the health care workforce at-large. Over the course of the 30 plus meetings, the Advocacy Committee offers practical expertise to these representatives and senators regarding issues that impact the health care workforce.

This year the ASHHRA Hill Visit will also coincide with the AHA Annual Meeting. The objective of the *Hill Visit* is to continue to build relationships with senators and representatives, reiterating the important health care viewpoint. It is important to present our positions since their positions may not include a focus on the issues unique to health care. Each committee member tries to develop a relationship with our legislators, adding the unique ASHHRA perspective.

This year the ASHHRA Advocacy Committee will be addressing the following topics during the *visit*:

- **Workforce** - *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) greatly increases the demand for caregivers, especially primary care physicians and nurses. The law extends coverage to approximately 32 million uninsured people and requires public and private insurers to cover prevention and wellness services. ASHHRA seeks to address workforce issues on several fronts – workforce shortages, employee relations, and employee wellness.*
- **Employee Relations** – *ASHHRA will focus on increased regulatory oversight and rulemaking initiatives primarily from the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board, nurse staffing patterns, mandatory lifting, and restrictions on unavoidable overtime.*

The objective of the Advocacy Committee is to monitor national and state legislative and labor developments throughout the year. The committee researches, develops, and promotes advocacy programs that represent the interests of the membership, human resources professionals, and the health care industry. The *Hill Visit* provides a vehicle for ASHHRA to share with senators and representatives the most vital health care issues and trends and their impact on our organizations and employees.

About ASHHRA

Founded in 1964, ASHHRA is a personal membership group of the American Hospital Association (AHA) and has more than 3500 members nationwide. It leads the way for members to become more effective, valued, and credible leaders in health care human resources. As the foremost authority in health care human resources, it provides timely and critical support through research, learning and knowledge sharing, professional development, products and resources, and provides opportunities for networking and collaboration.

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