

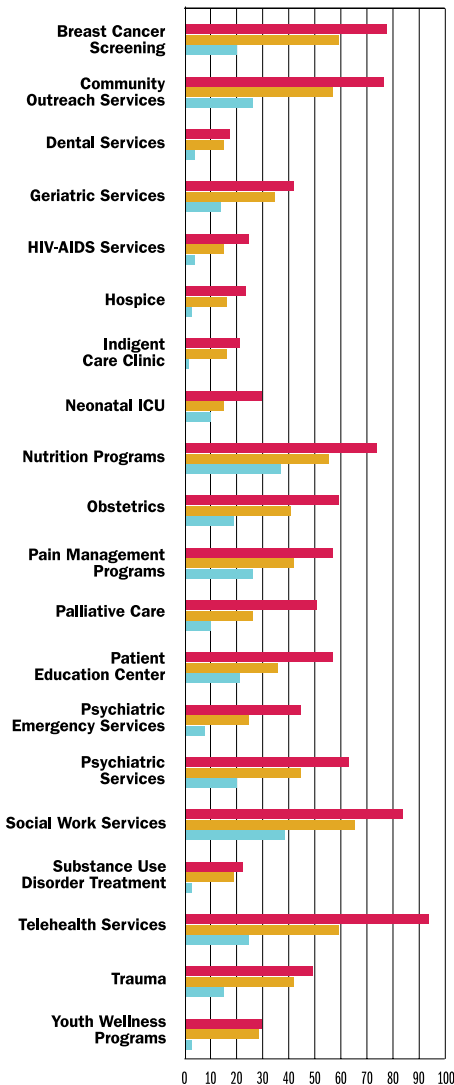
# Advocacy Agenda

2025-2026 (119th CONGRESS)

## PERCENT OF U.S. HOSPITALS OFFERING SELECTED PUBLIC HEALTH AND SPECIALTY SERVICES

Catholic hospitals often provide a higher percentage of public health and specialty services than other health care providers. These organizations' dedication to the common good often leads them to offer these traditionally "unprofitable" services.

■ Catholic  
■ State/Local Government  
■ Investor-Owned (For-Profit)



Source: 2023 American Hospital Association Annual Survey

## ABOUT CHA

The Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) is the national leadership organization of the Catholic health ministry, representing the largest not-for-profit provider of health care services in the nation. By pursuing the priorities of the ministry, CHA is working to create health care that serves everyone. All 50 states and the District of Columbia are served by Catholic health care organizations providing acute care, skilled nursing and other services including hospice, home health, assisted living and senior housing.

Our advocacy is grounded in the core values that form the CHA *Vision for U.S. Health Care*:

**HUMAN DIGNITY:** Because each person is created in the image of God, each life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth. Health care is essential to promoting and protecting the inherent dignity of every individual from conception to natural death.

**CONCERN FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE:** The moral measure of society is how it treats the poor and vulnerable, who are particularly marginalized by a lack of access to health care.

**JUSTICE:** Health care is a basic human right alongside food and shelter, all of which are necessary for individuals to participate fully in society.

**COMMON GOOD:** The health and well-being of each person are intertwined with the health and well-being of the broader community. Access to health care is an essential element contributing to the common good alongside others such as education, employment and a safe environment.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Our societal resources are finite, and we must make wise choices for how they are allocated. Health care resources should focus on the well-being of the community and be structured to deliver the care that is most medically beneficial and promotes public health.

**PLURALISM:** The health care system should allow and encourage involvement of the public and private sectors including voluntary, religious and not-for-profit organizations, and it should respect the religious and ethical values of patients and health care providers alike.

## OUR PRIORITIES FOR THE 119TH CONGRESS

As stated in our Vision, CHA advocates a health care system that is available, accessible and affordable to everyone and is designed to create and sustain a strong, healthy national and global community. The U.S. health care system should support and promote the health and well-being of every community, including rural and urban underserved areas. We will work with Congress and the Administration to:

### PROTECT SAFETY NET PROGRAMS

Public health insurance programs such as Medicaid, Medicare and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) are the foundation of our nation's safety net and provide necessary health care services to working families, children, the elderly and the disabled, many of whom would be uninsured in the absence of strong and vital safety net programs. The Catholic health ministry is dedicated to serving those in need, young and old, throughout every stage of life, and to protecting the programs they rely on. We support:

- ✦ Preserving the ability of the Medicare and Medicaid programs to provide care for seniors and low-income individuals and families, with adequate reimbursement that appropriately reflects the increased costs of delivering care
- ✦ Efforts to improve access, care and quality outcomes in Medicare, Medicaid and other safety net programs that protect the health and well-being of seniors and vulnerable low-income individuals
- ✦ Policies to assist health care providers, particularly disproportionate share hospitals, rural health and 340(b) hospitals, in delivering quality, compassionate care
- ✦ Initiatives to prevent insurance plans from denying or impeding access to necessary care

### PROVIDE ACCESS, COVERAGE AND AFFORDABILITY FOR EVERYONE

While significant progress has been made toward expanding access to coverage and improving the quality of care in our delivery system, CHA continues to advocate on behalf of those who are still uninsured or have coverage and care that does not fully meet their needs. We will advocate:

- ✦ Enhanced affordability, accessibility and quality of coverage for everyone, paying special attention to low-income and vulnerable individuals, disadvantaged communities and those in rural areas
- ✦ Improved access to mental and behavioral health services, as well as substance use disorder treatment, to ensure coordinated and holistic care
- ✦ Improved investment and effective financing to ensure access to care, workforce development and the sustainability of the health care system
- ✦ Strengthening not-for-profit health care and protecting tax-exempt status to advance our mission to care for vulnerable persons through community benefit programs
- ✦ Innovative policy approaches for delivering care, including advanced payment models and telehealth options, to improve access and outcomes and reduce costs through integration, coordination and prevention

### STRENGTHEN AGING AND CHRONIC CARE SERVICES

CHA strongly supports excellence in care for older persons and those with chronic conditions through efforts to coordinate and integrate person-centered and age-friendly health care services along the continuum of care. We support:

- ✦ Improved access to quality palliative and chronic care for those suffering the pain and stress of serious illness, as a core component of the health care system
- ✦ Sustainable financing for long-term care facilities, workforce development and health care services
- ✦ Policies and regulatory relief to address the workforce shortage and support quality care and services
- ✦ Improved coordination of care and choices for elders and persons with disabilities to receive long-term care services in the most appropriate care setting, whether at home, in the community (such as PACE) or in a facility

### PROTECT LIFE AND ENSURE CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

Mission and identity are integral and indispensable aspects of Catholic health care. We support a life agenda that allows our providers the freedom to serve, protect and defend human life from conception to natural death and allows individuals, families and communities to thrive. We will work to:

- ✦ Support policies that promote and support health at all stages of life, from maternal pre- and post-natal care to compassionate end-of-life care
- ✦ Preserve and strengthen existing provider conscience protections that allow us to provide care consistent with our faith
- ✦ Advocate policies that acknowledge our religious, ethical and moral values

### IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF COMMUNITIES AND ELIMINATE DISPARITIES

CHA and its members are committed to eliminating health disparities, achieving equity in the provision and quality of health services and ensuring a comprehensive approach to community health. We will support:

- ✦ Programs and services that address the social determinants of health, including housing, nutrition, education, employment and discrimination
- ✦ Strengthening the public health system to enhance, support and protect our communities and prepare for public health emergencies
- ✦ Policies to improve patient outcomes by ending geographic, racial and ethnic health disparities, promoting culturally competent care and ensuring the workforce is reflective of our communities
- ✦ Addressing social justice issues to eliminate human trafficking, respect the inherent dignity of immigrants and ensure their access to health care and promote environmental responsibility and sustainability as well as global health and development

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Visit [www.chausa.org](http://www.chausa.org) for more information, including Policy Briefs with specific legislative policy positions.