



Rick Pollack became president and CEO of the American Hospital Association on Sept. 1, 2015.

He began his career in Washington, D.C., in 1976, when he went to work as a legislative assistant to Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin. Rick left Capitol Hill, and entered the health care field, to work for the American Nurses Association as their legislative representative in the early 1980s.

He joined the American Hospital Association in 1982, where he has been a member of the AHA's advocacy team for more than three decades. He initially served as associate director for legislation, and then vice president for federal relations and deputy director of the AHA Washington Office.

In 1991, Rick was named the association's executive vice president, and began his successful efforts to create a sophisticated political and grassroots infrastructure, enabling the hospital advocacy agenda to be effectively communicated before the Congress and federal agencies. The AHA has been cited by numerous national publications as one of the most influential and effective advocacy organizations in Washington.

Under his leadership, the AHA launched AHAPAC, now one of the largest health care political action committees in the U.S., supporting congressional candidates who support hospitals and patients. Through his vision, the AHA also helped found in 2000 the Coalition to Protect America's Health Care, a group of providers, businesses and other stakeholders dedicated to ensuring the financial viability of our nation's hospitals from the threats of federal cuts in reimbursement for hospital payments.

Rick also has been a leader in efforts to expand health coverage in the U.S., taking part in many broad-based national coalitions that ultimately led to coverage expansion under the Affordable Care Act. He spurred the association early on to tackle the issues of quality and patient safety.

Rick holds a bachelor's degree in political science and communications from the State University of New York's College at Cortland. He also earned a master's degree in public administration from the American University in Washington, D.C.

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