



Advancing Health in America

Contact: Colleen Kincaid, ckincaid@aha.org
Colin Milligan, cmilligan@aha.org

American Hospital Association Names Steve Walsh as President and CEO

National Search Results in Proven Healthcare Leader, Innovator and Advocate for Healthcare Improvement, Says AHA Chair

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 30, 2026) – The American Hospital Association (AHA) today announced the appointment of Steve Walsh as its next President and Chief Executive Officer.

Walsh, who has served as President and CEO of the Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA) since 2017, will assume leadership of the nation's largest hospital and healthcare system membership organization, representing nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems, networks and other providers of care.

"Following a thoughtful national search, the Board unanimously selected Steve Walsh to serve as the next President and Chief Executive Officer of the American Hospital Association," said Marc L. Boom, M.D., Chair of the AHA Board of Trustees and President and Chief Executive Officer of Houston Methodist. "Steve is a proven healthcare leader, innovator and accomplished advocate for healthcare improvement, who understands both the challenges facing hospitals and the opportunities ahead. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated an ability to bring people together, build consensus and advance meaningful solutions on behalf of patients, caregivers and communities."

Added Boom: "Steve is the right leader at the right time for America's hospitals and health systems. As healthcare continues to evolve, we need a leader who can both champion our field and help shape the future. Steve brings the experience, vision and collaborative leadership necessary to guide the Association through this important next chapter."

Boom also thanked and praised outgoing AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack: "The Board's decision reflects our confidence that Steve is uniquely prepared to build upon the strong foundation established by Rick Pollack while helping the Association strengthen its role as a trusted voice, convener and advocate for health care providers across America. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank Rick for his extraordinary leadership and decades of service to the Association and our nation's

hospitals. We are deeply grateful for his contributions and excited for the future under Steve's leadership."

Walsh, who will assume leadership of the AHA this fall, brings more than two decades of experience advancing American healthcare, with a focus on strengthening the healthcare workforce, reducing disparities in health outcomes and fostering a more connected continuum of care for patients.

As President and CEO of MHA, Walsh has been a proven coalition builder and has broken boundaries between providers, payers, policymakers and others. He has championed the principle that strong hospitals mean stronger communities—creating a more accessible and coordinated healthcare system for patients on behalf of more than 70 hospital and health system members.

Before that, he served six terms in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, including as Chair of the House Committee on Health Care Financing. In 2011, he wrote and oversaw passage of Chapter 224, the commonwealth's landmark 2012 healthcare reform law, which incentivized alternative payment methodologies and investment in community health while encouraging patient empowerment and primary care.

"It is a profound honor to be selected to lead the American Hospital Association, and I am grateful for the trust the Board has placed in me to carry on the legacy of service that Rick Pollack has created," said Walsh. "The next era of American healthcare is bright for the patients and caregivers we serve, all of whom will benefit from our members' unified focus around access, quality and innovation. To write the next chapter will require creative leadership, hard-earned trust and the willingness to bring unlikely partners to the same table. I am a true believer that hospitals and health systems must be the ones to define that future for the nation given their unique connection with patients and communities. Building bridges, building trust and building momentum will drive AHA's successes in the years ahead."

Walsh is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and has been regularly named to *Boston Magazine's* list of Most Influential Bostonians and *Modern Healthcare's* 300 Most Influential People in Healthcare.

He is a graduate of Wesleyan University, the New England School of Law, and the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

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About the American Hospital Association (AHA)

The American Hospital Association (AHA) is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of

their communities. The AHA advocates on behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners – including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers – and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides insight and education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA website at www.aha.org.