

NEWS RELEASE

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BOTHWELL REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

SEDALIA, MO – Representatives from central Missouri hospitals, including Bothwell Regional Health Center, traveled to Washington, D.C., recently to share their views on health-care issues with Missouri's congressional delegation.

In their meetings with lawmakers, Steve Biermann, chairman of the Bothwell Board of Trustees, and John Dawes, president and CEO of Bothwell Regional Health Center, discussed the priorities for the future of health care in Pettis and Benton counties.

"There are a couple of priorities looming on the horizon that are being watched very carefully," said Dawes. "Each of these impacts the funding Bothwell Regional Health Center receives for providing care to various patient populations. We wanted to meet face-to-face with our Congressional delegation to make sure they know what impact their decisions have at a local level."

One of the priorities being monitored is the proposed federal budget plan that calls for significant reductions to entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

"The uncertainty in the federal budget plan makes it harder for hospitals to develop short-term and long-term plans," Dawes said. "Spending cuts compound the shortfall of Medicare and Medicaid to cover the cost of care. This will increase the costs for covered patients and hurts the ability of hospitals to continue to provide care for low-income or uninsured patients."

Biermann and Dawes joined a delegation of more than 30 hospital representatives. The trip, held in conjunction with the American Hospital Association annual membership meeting, was organized by the Missouri Hospital Association. The not-for-profit membership association is located in Jefferson City and represents 151 Missouri hospitals.

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Bothwell Regional Health Center is a 140-bed regional health center serving west-central Missouri with state-of-the-art technology and comprehensive health and wellness services. More information is available on its website at www.brhc.org.