



February 12, 2024

To: Wisconsin legislature

From: Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce

Re: Assembly Bills 1078 and 1077
Senate Bills 1014 and 1015

The imminent closure of two HSHS hospitals and all of the Prevea clinics in western Wisconsin has created a health care crisis for the Chippewa Valley and the surrounding region.

The Eau Claire Area Chamber of supports these bills, which repurpose \$15 million in unspent state funds originally intended for healthcare needs in the Chippewa Valley. These funds serve as an opportunity to help meet immediate needs while longer term solutions are formulated and implemented.

The Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce has served our community since 1915 as the advocate of business. Our 1,100 investor organizations employ more than 45,000 individuals throughout the Eau Claire area. We work to represent the business community as a champion of a strong local and regional economy.

We appreciate the work of our area legislators to take prompt action in light of the gravity of this regional crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Rogers".

Scott Rogers
Vice President Governmental Affairs
Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce

Reply to: rogers@eauclairechamber.org 715-858-0616