

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Rep. Jodi Emerson Applauds Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative's Initiative to Restore Hospital Services; Urges Legislative Action on Funding**

MADISON, WI — Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative's (CVHC) announced plans to establish a full-service, independent, nonprofit hospital in Lake Hallie, aiming for a fall 2027 opening. This development aims to address the healthcare void left by the closures of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital earlier this year. Rep. Emerson released the following statement in response:

"The Chippewa Valley Health Cooperative's commitment to building a new hospital in Lake Hallie is a crucial advancement in restoring essential healthcare services to our community. Their dedication to providing comprehensive, locally governed care is commendable and vital for the well-being of our residents.

"Despite the Legislature's approval and Governor Evers' signing of a \$15 million allocation to address the hospital closure crisis, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) has yet to release these funds. The delay in releasing the allocated \$15 million is unacceptable. Our community cannot afford further postponements in reestablishing critical healthcare services. I urge the JFC to act immediately to release these funds. If these funds were to be released now, it could immediately be put to good use by the CVHC.

"Looking ahead to the upcoming legislative session, I reaffirm my commitment to advocating for sustained funding and support for healthcare infrastructure in the Chippewa Valley. Ensuring that our region has access to quality healthcare services remains a top priority. I will continue to fight for the necessary resources to support our hospitals and healthcare providers."

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