

Is Your Healthcare Access at Risk?

Written by Jeff Smith, State Senator District 31
Wednesday, 27 March 2024 09:26 -

<http://newiprogressive.com/images/stories/S5/healthcare-family-dr-s440.jpg>



Senator Smith explores the HSHS closure and what it means for preventing other large-scale health system closures in Wisconsin.

EAU CLAIRE - We were hit hard in west central Wisconsin with the announcement that Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) would permanently close Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls and all of its Prevea Clinics throughout the region. The announcement happened on January 22nd and the final closing happened March 22nd already. The original 90 day plan quickly turned into 60 days leaving over 40,000 patients with fewer healthcare options.

While we continue brainstorming for how to plug holes left behind by HSHS, we should also consider how the system failed us all.

Many people who contacted me wanted the state to stop HSHS from closing. Since HSHS is a private company, there's nothing that could've prevented them from closing. HSHS made their own decisions based on fiscal viability as a corporation responsible to their investors.

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