

Craig, Sondra

From: Nancy Parcher <nparcher@laxymca.org>
Sent: Monday, July 22, 2024 9:15 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Reach Center rezoning

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Hello Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed rezoning of the Reach Center to allow remodeling for Scenic Bluffs to facilitate the establishment of a Medicare and Medicaid dentistry clinic. As a resident of La Crosse and someone who works with children, families, and vulnerable populations, I believe this rezoning is crucial for improving access to essential dental care for our community, particularly for those on Medicare and Medicaid. Any child, including foster children and disabled children, in La Crosse that is on Medicaid now has to wait many months to be seen by a dentist. Parents can not even offer to pay cash if their child is on Medicaid as they need to go to a provider that will accept Medicaid.

The establishment of a Medicare and Medicaid dentistry clinic in our city will provide numerous benefits:

1. **Enhanced Access to Dental Care:** Many residents, especially seniors, disabled, children and low-income individuals, face significant barriers to accessing affordable dental care. A dedicated clinic for Medicare and Medicaid recipients will address this need, offering comprehensive dental services to those who need them most.
2. **Improved Public Health:** Oral health is a vital component of overall health. By improving access to dental care, we can prevent and manage dental diseases that are often linked to other serious health issues, such as heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory infections. This clinic would play a critical role in promoting public health in our community.
3. **Economic Benefits:** Providing affordable dental care can help reduce the financial burden on residents, lowering long-term healthcare costs associated with untreated dental issues. Additionally, the clinic would create jobs and stimulate economic activity in our city.
4. **Support for Vulnerable Populations:** Many Medicare and Medicaid recipients are elderly, disabled, or low-income individuals who may have limited mobility and resources. Having a dedicated clinic in our community would ensure that these vulnerable populations receive the specialized care they require, enhancing their quality of life.
5. **Community Well-being:** Accessible healthcare services, including dental care, contribute to the overall well-being and quality of life in a community. The presence of a Medicare and Medicaid dentistry clinic would demonstrate our city's commitment to caring for all its residents, fostering a sense of inclusivity and support.

I understand that rezoning decisions require careful consideration and balancing of various community interests. However, I firmly believe that the proposed rezoning for a Medicare and Medicaid dentistry clinic is in the best interest of our community. It aligns with our goals of improving healthcare access, supporting vulnerable populations, and promoting public health.

I urge you and the City Council to approve this rezoning proposal. Your favorable decision will have a lasting positive impact on our community, ensuring that La Crosse continues to be a place where all residents can thrive and receive the care they need.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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Nancy Parcher ([she/her](#)) | **Community Health Worker Supervisor**

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