



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LA CROSSE

807 East Avenue South • La Crosse, WI 54601 • 608.789.7628 • Fax: 608.789.7604

July 27, 2024

Dear La Crosse City Council Members:

The School District of La Crosse supports the REACH Center's petition to rezone in order to allow the Scenic Bluffs Health Center to provide much needed dental services to underserved kids in our school district and city.

In the School District of La Crosse, 51% of our students are identified as economically disadvantaged, qualifying for both free and reduced lunch and Badger Care. Unfortunately, there is no local dental provider who consistently takes Badger Care for dental services leaving half of our students without a crucial service that allows kids to be healthy, attend school consistently and be ready to learn. The closest provider is the Scenic Bluffs dental clinic located in Cashton which places a significant travel burden on families already struggling to make ends meet.

We are incredibly excited to see Scenic Bluff's dental services arrive in La Crosse, in a location that is centrally located, near a medical provider, and accessible to the kids who need this help. Denying this petition to rezone will continue to leave half of our students without dental care, something those of us with means consider an essential component of health. Please approve the REACH Center's petition to rezone in order to provide half of the kids in La Crosse with the dental services they so desperately need.

Sincerely,

Aaron J. J. Engel, Ph.D.
Superintendent
School District of La Crosse