

Testimony
Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2026
Senate Appropriations Committee
Senator Brad Bekkedahl, Chairman
January 23, 2023

Chairman Bekkedahl, and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am Jonathan Alm, an attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in support of engrossed Senate Bill No. 2026.

The Department's 2021-23 budget allowed for the Department to demolish the chapel, administrative building, employee buildings, and associated tunnels at the State Hospital only if the Department was able to find general fund savings to use on the demolition projects. The Department obtained an estimate from an architect firm of \$3,272,902 on February 11, 2022, to demolish the three buildings and tunnels, two of the five buildings which are listed in this Bill. The Department did not receive any appropriation from the 67th Legislative Assembly for the demolition projects. The Department does not have funding for the demolition projects and would need an appropriation to demolish the administrative building, employee building, associated tunnels, milk barn, pig barn, and water treatment plant buildings in the next biennium.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.