

Testimony
Senate Bill No. 2026
Senate Human Services Committee
Senator Judy Lee, Chairman
January 9, 2023

Chairman Lee, and members of the Senate Human Services Committee, I am Jonathan Alm, an attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in opposition of Senate Bill No. 2026, unless amended, as the proposed Bill does not support the Governor's recommended appropriation for the Department.

The Department's 2021-23 budget allowed for the Department to demolish the chapel, administrative building, employee building, 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 did not receive any appropriation from the 67th Legislative Assembly for the demolition projects. The Department does not have funding for the demolition projects. The Department was also informed by the State Historical Society that the chapel is historic and cannot be demolished.

Without an appropriation for the 2023-25 biennium, the Department will probably not be able to demolish the buildings and tunnels in the next biennium. The Governor's recommended budget for the Department has \$10,000,000 for an architecture design for the new State Hospital. If this Bill is passed, as is, without the proper funding to demolish certain buildings, there will be no architecture design for the new State Hospital based on the language limiting the Department from spending any funds for the purpose of building a new state hospital until certain buildings are

demolished. It is time for the State to reduce liability and properly fund the demolition of buildings at the State Hospital.

The proposed amendment would provide an appropriation for the Department to demolish the administrative building, employee building, associated tunnels, milk barn, pig barn, and water treatment plant buildings. The proposed amendment would also allow the Department to continue to proceed with the architecture design for the new State Hospital.

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2026

Page 1, line 6, replace "\$2,000,000" with "\$5,000,000"

Page 1, line 8, after the second "the" insert "administrative building, employee building, associated tunnels,"

Page 1, line 10, remove the colon

Page 1, remove lines 11 through 15

Page 1, line 16, replace "3. Is" with "is"

Renumber accordingly

SECTION 1. CONTINGENT APPROPRIATION - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES - ONE-TIME FUNDING. There is appropriated out of any moneys in the general fund in the state treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the sum of ~~\$2,000,000~~\$5,000,000, or so much of the sum as may be necessary, to the department of health and human services for the purpose of demolishing unused buildings on the state hospital campus, including the administrative building, employee building, associated tunnels, milk barn, pig barn, and water treatment plant buildings, for the period beginning with the effective date of this Act, and ending June 30, 2025. Funding provided in this section:

- ~~1. May not be spent until the chapel, administrative building, employee building, and associated tunnels on the state hospital campus are demolished pursuant to section 17 of chapter 12 of the 2021 Session Laws;~~
- ~~2. Must be spent before spending any funding appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of building a new state hospital; and~~
- ~~3. Is~~is considered a one-time funding item.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY. This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.