

County of Schoolcraft

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Commissioner Craig Reiter, District No. 1
Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners



March 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed expansion of the Emergency Department and Inpatient & Swing Bed capacity at Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital. As a representative of Schoolcraft County, I recognize the vital role the hospital plays in providing reliable, high-quality healthcare for residents throughout our county and across the Upper Peninsula.

Access to local healthcare is critically important for rural communities like ours. Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital serves not only the residents of our immediate area, but also many visitors and patients from surrounding communities who rely on its services. Expanding the hospital's Emergency Department and inpatient capacity will help ensure that patients can receive timely care in a safe and appropriate setting, especially during periods when demand for services is high.

Increasing inpatient capacity would also allow the hospital to care for more patients locally rather than transferring them elsewhere due to space limitations. Keeping patients closer to home allows families to remain involved in their care and reduces the burden of traveling long distances for treatment. In addition, the hospital's swing bed program is an incredibly important resource for our region. This program allows patients who are recovering from illness, injury, or surgery to receive continued care and rehabilitation close to home rather than remaining in larger hospitals or traveling far from their communities. For many rural residents, swing bed services provide a critical bridge between hospital care and returning home safely.

Expanded capacity would also position Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital to serve as a transfer destination for other facilities when larger regional hospitals are experiencing high demand. This would help relieve pressure on major medical centers while ensuring patients throughout the Upper Peninsula have access to appropriate care in a timely manner.

Our rural hospitals are essential to the health and stability of our communities. Ensuring that Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital has the space and resources needed to meet growing demand will help protect access to care for residents throughout the Upper Peninsula.

For these reasons, I strongly support the proposed expansion and encourage consideration of this important investment in the future of healthcare for our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Walker', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Paul Walker

Board Chairperson
Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners