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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Steineke Requests Reconsideration for Closing Appleton Unemployment Insurance Hearing Office**

**MADISON** – Representative Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) along with Assembly Republican colleagues [sent a letter to Secretary Designee Caleb Frostman this morning](#), asking that he reconsider the Department of Workforce Development’s (DWD) intention to close two Unemployment Insurance (UI) Hearings offices. Currently, there are four offices, located in Madison, Milwaukee, Appleton, and Eau Claire. DWD has plans to close both the Appleton and Eau Claire UI offices.

“By closing the two northern offices, the administration is denying anyone in the northern half of Wisconsin access to a reasonably located in-person hearing before a judge for unemployment insurance issues,” said Rep. Steineke. “Unfortunately, this is just another example of our current administration turning their back on anyone outside of the 608 or 414 area code.”

The letter sent this morning urged Secretary Designee Frostman to reverse course and keep both the Appleton and Eau Claire offices open. For both constituents and businesses from northern Wisconsin, the offices closing could mean a commute of 300 miles or more one-way to attend an in-person hearing.

“I hope that Secretary Designee Frostman and the administration understand the error of this decision and the repercussions it could have for so many in our communities,” continued Rep. Steineke. “It’s time they turn their focus back to what best serves all of Wisconsin, not just Madison or Milwaukee.”

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