



April 5, 2018

Alisha Simon
Health Economics Program
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

Dear Ms. Simon,

I am writing in support of Regions Hospital's proposal for 100 additional inpatient bed licenses. Regions hospital serves a unique role in the east metro as safety-net, level 1 adult and pediatric trauma center, and burn center. It is also a major partner teaching site for training the next generations of clinicians for the state. Annually, HealthPartners Institute and Regions Hospital train more than 470 residents and 2,000 clinical students, many of whom are University of Minnesota students, residents and fellows.

In addition to being an important training site, Regions' provides unique services in the areas of trauma, burn, mental health, chemical health and as a safety net hospital for the east metro and care for all who come to them. Regions has been consistently running above 90% capacity over the past year and truly needs to bring bed licenses on board in order to meet current and future needs of the growing and aging east metro community.

Together, we are training generations of clinicians who will care for the population of Minnesota in the future. The best training occurs where the best care happens and these new bed licenses are critical to continue to care in the best environment for patients.

For these reasons I urge you to find Regions proposal for 100 additional inpatient beds in the public interest.

Sincerely,

Macaran A. Baird, MD, MS

CEO of UMPHysicians

Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health

University of Minnesota Medical School