

March 13, 2018

Hospital Administrator  
Title  
Hospital  
Address  
City, MN ZIP

Dear Hospital Administrator,

The purpose of this letter is to seek feedback from Minnesota hospitals on the HealthPartners proposed plan to add 100 licensed beds at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. The proposed increase is expected to be phased in over the next 20 years and include 60 medical/surgical beds, 20 mental health beds, and 20 obstetrics beds.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is currently conducting a Public Interest Review of the proposal to inform the Legislature's decision about whether to grant an exception to the to the state's hospital bed moratorium law (Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.552). In conducting our review, MDH considers a range of relevant factors, including the following specific ones:

- Whether the new beds are needed to provide timely access to care;
- The financial impact of the new hospital beds on existing acute care hospitals;
- How new hospital beds would affect the ability of existing hospitals to maintain staff; and
- The extent to which the hospital beds will provide services to nonpaying or low-income patients.

We would appreciate any comments that address the factors identified above and others, you may consider relevant in the review. In addition, we would particularly appreciate your insights into expectations about future needs for inpatient hospital care in the East Metro area, and how existing bed capacity, including through unused licensed beds, could be leveraged to address those needs. The HealthPartners proposal, as well as correspondence and feedback to date, is available online for your consideration ([www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/hep/moratorium/regions/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpsc/hep/moratorium/regions/)).

Please send comments on this proposal by **April 2, 2018** to Alisha Simon via email at [alisha.simon@state.mn.us](mailto:alisha.simon@state.mn.us) or by postal mail to:

Alisha Simon, Health Economics Program  
PO Box 64882  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

Sincerely,



Stefan Gildemeister  
Director, Health Economics Program  
[www.health.state.mn.us/healthconomics](http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthconomics)