

Minnesota Chapter
American College of
Emergency Physicians

CHAPTER MAILING
ADDRESS

6 Greenhaven Bay, #289
Farhault, MN 55021

Ph: 507-384-3164
Fax: 507-384-3133

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Shari Augustin

February 1, 2018

The Honorable Senator Michelle Benson, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Policy and Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Representative Joe Schomacker, Chair
House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Benson and Schomacker:

On behalf of the Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (MNACEP) we are writing to you in support of your legislation to grant Regions Hospital an exemption to the hospital moratorium law in order to add 100 bed licenses.

ACEP is the oldest and largest national medical specialty organization representing physicians who practice emergency medicine. With more than 32,000 members, ACEP is the leading continuing education source for emergency physicians and the primary information resource on developments in the specialty.

This legislation is vital to improving emergency care in the state because Regions Hospital is the east metro's only Level 1 Adult and Pediatric Trauma and Burn Center, as well as the leading provider of comprehensive mental and chemical health services in the east metro. It is also a safety net hospital and the largest charity care provider in the east metro. Additionally, Regions is one of the largest private teaching hospitals in the state---partnering with the University of Minnesota to train more than 500 resident physicians each year.

Thank you for authoring this legislation and supporting the critical needs of the patients who are seen at Regions' emergency department.

Best Regards,



Andrew Zinkel, MD, MBA
President, MNACEP



SEIU Healthcare, United for Quality Care

March 1, 2018

The Honorable Senator Michelle Benson, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Policy and Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Jamie Gulley
President

Jigme Ugen
Executive Vice President

The Honorable Representative Joe Schomacker, Chair
House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Lisa Weed
Executive Vice President

Liz Asmus
Executive Vice President

Phillip Ryan
Executive Vice President

Dear Chairs:

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota supports your legislation to grant Regions Hospital an exemption to the hospital moratorium law in order to add 100 bed licenses.

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota represents more than 35,000 healthcare and long-term care workers in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, and self-directed home care throughout the state of Minnesota, including over 50 pharmacists at Regions Hospital.

Because we represent Regions employees, we know we must add additional capacity in order to meet the growing and aging East Metro population. This general need is even more critical because Regions' provides critical services in the areas of trauma, burn, mental health and as a safety net hospital.

In addition to meeting the needs of Regions patients, expanding Regions' capacity will result in approximately 1000 new jobs over the course of the expansion. We welcome these additional opportunities for Minnesotans to join and advance in the health care workforce.

Thank you for your authoring of this legislation and supporting Regions' patients and workforce.

345 Randolph Avenue
Suite 100
St. Paul, MN
55102

651.294.8100
800.828.0206

(Minnesota & Wisconsin only)
(fax) 651.294.8200
www.seiuhhealthcaremn.org



Sincerely yours,

Rick Varco
Political Director



March 2, 2018

The Honorable Michelle Benson, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Policy and Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Joe Schomacker
House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Benson and Schomacker,

We are writing to you in support of your legislation to grant Regions Hospital an exemption to the hospital moratorium law in order to add 100 bed licenses.

The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault is involved with a network of support systems across Minnesota for sexual violence survivors and awareness. Through this, we are able to connect educative and preventative efforts with real-time responses to sexual violence, promoting a culture both understanding, and just, around sexual assault.

This network includes the Regions Hospital SANE Program. Within this program, nurses specially trained to care for patients following a sexual assault partner with advocacy and provide support and medical forensic exams for survivors in the Twin Cities, playing an essential role in the recovery and justice process.

This legislation is critical to our continued support of sexual violence survivors. These additional beds will provide the opportunity for traumatized and vulnerable patients to be seen more timely because the Emergency Department will not be boarding inpatients who are waiting for beds to open up upstairs. An additional 100 bed licenses will help ensure that Regions Hospital is doing the best it can to support the survivors of these crimes.

Thank you for authoring this legislation and supporting the needs of patients.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teri Walker McLaughlin".

Teri Walker McLaughlin
Executive Director

161 St. Anthony Avenue
Suite 1001
St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651.209.9993
Fax: 651.209.0899
Email: info@mncasa.org

Saint Paul

Building and Construction Trades



Council

February 26, 2018

The Honorable Senator Michelle Benson
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Policy & Finance Committee
95 University Ave. West
Minnesota Senate Building, Rm 3109
Saint Paul, MN 55115

The Honorable Representative Joe Schomacker
Chair, House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Benson and Representative Schomacker:

We are writing you today to show our support for your legislation to permit Regions Hospital to expand its number of licensed hospital beds. The bed request is currently being reviewed by the Department of Health, and we hope their findings will be in front of you shortly.

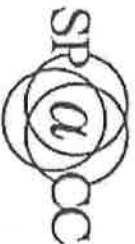
Regions greatly needs to expand its bed capacity, as it will reach 100% of its available licenses sometime early in 2018. More beds will allow the hospital to better coordinate patient care, meet the increasing demands outlined above, as well as generate almost a thousand new full-time jobs in the area. In addition to the estimated 1,000 permanent jobs that would be created for health care personnel, the expansion would also create construction jobs for tradespeople across the metro area; as we have seen with other health care facilities in recent years.

Thank you for your consideration of our support in assisting Regions Hospital with providing the best possible care to the patients of our state, and especially the east metro area.

Sincerely,


Donald J. Mullin
Executive Secretary





SAINT PAUL AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Senator Michelle Benson
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Policy & Finance Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Representative Joe Schomacker
Chair, House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Benson and Representative Schomacker:

The Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce supports the application by Regions Hospital to expand its number of licensed hospital beds contained in House File 3202/Senate File 2892.

Regions Hospital is a unique and vital part of the health care fabric of the east metro and has been so for 145 years. As well as being a safety net hospital, and the largest provider of charity care in Ramsey County, it is also a teaching hospital, training some 500 residents annually. In addition, it is the only level I Adult/Pediatric Trauma Center and Burn Center in the east metro area. Regions is also a leading provider of mental and chemical health services for the east metro.

More beds will allow Regions to better coordinate patient care and meet the increasing demands of healthcare into the future. Issues such as the needs of the impending "silver tsunami" will be best addressed if we plan ahead, and as mental health continues to drive attention, the importance of bed availability grows. In addition, we take economic impact into consideration when supporting this project, as this expansion will generate jobs.

Regions Hospital is an active, long-time member of the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and we encourage your support of House File 3202/Senate File 2892. It is in our best interest that Regions be equipped to meet the needs of current and future patients of our state, and especially the east metro.

Sincerely,

B Kyle
President & CEO



March 6, 2018

The Honorable Senator Michelle Benson
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Policy & Finance Committee
95 University Avenue West
Minneapolis Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Representative Joe Schomacker
Chair, House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Benson and Schomacker:

We are writing in support of the legislation submitted to expand the number of licensed hospital beds at Regions Hospital, a full-service private nonprofit hospital within the Health Partners organization.

Regions Hospital is committed to the health of our community; patients benefit from an expert team of medical professionals located within St. Paul providing a comprehensive range of services known to be exceptional. In the east metro, Regions is the only burn center and level one adult/pediatric Trauma center. Gillette collaborates with Regions in many ways to assure coordinated care for pediatric trauma patients and vulnerable adults served by Gillette well beyond childhood. In addition, they are a safety net hospital and an important provider in chemical and mental health services.

The pressures we face in health care are great and ever mounting. Regions will reach 100% of its available licenses in early 2018. More beds will allow Regions to better coordinate patient care and meet increasing demands. Gillette supports the proactive planning of Regions to assure community needs can be met in the future.

We are committed to being a trusted partner to the State of Minnesota and a good steward of its health care resources. We know that Regions joins us in that commitment.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara Joers'.

Barbara Joers
CEO and President, Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare

100% FREE
Brainerd Lakes
Burnsville
Duluth
Mankato
Maple Grove
Minnetonka
Phalen



JIM McDONOUGH

Chair

Board of Ramsey County Commissioners

Joann Ellis, Assistant
TEL. (651) 266-8357

220 Courthouse
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102
TEL. (651) 266-8350

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Senator Michelle Benson
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Policy & Finance Committee
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Representative Joe Schomacker
Chair, House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Benson and Representative Schomacker:

I am writing on behalf of Ramsey County to express our enthusiastic support for your legislation to add 100 bed licenses to Regions Hospital so that they can serve a growing and aging patient population.

Ramsey County has a unique perspective on Regions' growth as the hospital was formerly county owned. Regions has provided excellent stewardship of the hospital and dedication to its mission as the safety net for the east metro as the largest provider of uncompensated care - \$17 million dollars in 2016. Our public private partnership is unique in that Ramsey County does not contribute funding for charity care provided by Regions.

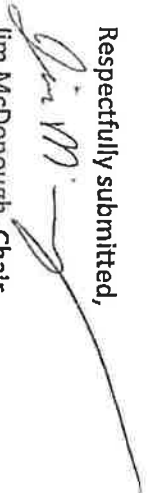
Regions provides county residents the only Level 1 Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center and Burn Unit and also pays for a Ramsey County staff employee to assist patients in Medical Assistance enrollment. When the state ended coverage for the General Assistance Medical Care program, Regions was the only east metro hospital to care for this population as a part of the Coordinated Care Delivery System Program.

Senator Benson and Representative Schomacker
March 13, 2018
Page 2

Regions is also an important partner in providing workforce development opportunities – a key priority for the county. Regions is a Right Track employer, a member of the Central Corridor Anchor Partnership Workforce Development Group and is part of the State of Minnesota Apprenticeship Program. We are thrilled that this project will add 1,000 new jobs over the course of the expansion. Regions has made a strong commitment to creating career development pathways for their employees. Their commitment to their employees was illustrated with the Yellow Ribbon employer designation they earned last year.

Thank you for authoring Senate File 2892/House File 3202 so that Regions can continue its work providing the best possible care to the patients of our state, especially in Ramsey County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim M.", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim McDonough, Chair
Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Regions Hospital Board Member

cc: Ramsey County Legislative Delegation



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

March 21, 2018

Senator Michelle Benson
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Policy & Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Joe Schomacker
Chair, House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Benson and Representative Schomacker,

We are writing to express support for your legislation to add one hundred bed licenses to Regions Hospital. These additional beds will allow Regions Hospital to serve a growing patient population.

Regions Hospital benefits Saint Paul and Minnesota residents, not only as a high-quality care system and our only Level One Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center, and Burn Unit, but it is also a critical part of the safety net as the largest provider of uncompensated care in the east metro. Regions Hospital provided \$17 million in uncompensated care in 2016 alone.

Last year Regions Hospital collaborated with other area hospitals and Catholic Charities to provide a sixteen-bed medical respite unit in the Higher Ground complex, which will provide homeless patients a place to recover, and has previously employed Saint Paul students through the Right Track Program, and has hosted students across the metropolitan area for career exploration experiences. As individuals committed to the success of Saint Paul, we know that the bill you are authoring will allow Regions to continue to provide crucial services for the residents of Saint Paul and throughout Minnesota.

CITY HALL

THIRD FLOOR

15 WEST KELLOGG BOULEVARD

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102-1615





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Page Two
March 21, 2018
Senator Michelle Benson
Representative Joe Schomacker
Senate File 2892/House File 3202 - Regions Hospital


Thank you for authoring Senate File 2892/House File 3202, which will allow Regions Hospital to continue to provide the best possible care to all patients in our state.


Respectfully submitted,



Chris Tolbert
Saint Paul City Council, Ward 3


Amy Brendemoen, President
Saint Paul City Council, Ward 5


Dai Thao
Saint Paul City Council, Ward 1


Rebecca Noecker
Saint Paul City Council, Ward 2


Samantha Henningson
Saint Paul City Council, Ward 4


Dan Bostrom
Saint Paul City Council, Ward 6


Jane Prince
Saint Paul City Council, Ward 7

LOCAL

Census: Twin Cities area adds quarter-million residents since 2010

Migration from across the U.S. has helped fuel growth.

By Eric Roper (<http://www.startribune.com/eric-roper/62906482/>) Star Tribune

MARCH 22, 2018 — 5:09AM

A surge in people moving from elsewhere in the country to the Twin Cities last year contributed to the metro area's population growth, which added a quarter-million residents since 2010, according to the latest estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 43,000 new residents last year also marked the largest year-over-year growth for the Twin Cities in recent history, according to a demographer with the Brookings Institution. The additional residents since 2010 bring the metro area's population to just over 3.6 million, holding steady as the 16th-largest metro in the country.

The Twin Cities' growth lags that of its rival metros, such as Seattle, Portland and Denver, and it's well behind by the population boom in Florida and Texas cities. But those who analyze the data are optimistic about the impact on the local economy.

Matt Lewis tracks the movement of "working professionals" — specifically people over 23 with an associate degree or higher — to the metro area for Greater MSP. Looking at five-year averages, he recently found that 2016 was the best year for attracting new professionals to the region since tracking began in 2007.

"When we're looking at professionals in the workforce, something happened where our performance notably jumped in 2016 — and that trend looks like it's continuing," Lewis said.

The Census Bureau's definition of the Twin Cities metro extends to 16 counties surrounding the central cities, extending northward to Mille Lacs and eastward to western Wisconsin. About 85 percent of the population lives in the seven-county area.

The net number of people who moved to the Twin Cities from elsewhere in the country, versus those who left, rose dramatically last year, according to the new census data, which is derived from the American Community Survey. And 2017 was the first year since 2001 that more people moved to Minnesota from other states than moved out of state, according to census data crunched by the state demographer's office.

Demographers won't be able to explain precisely why these people are until more data becomes available. But demographer Susan Brower said it is good news for the local economy, because existing residents are dying in higher numbers and births are relatively flat.

"The supply of workers isn't coming as much from internal growth as it has been in the past because of those things," Brower said. "And going forward we would expect that that outsized opportunity and relatively slow growth in the labor force would create a pull, so that people would hear about the great jobs we have here and the opportunities."

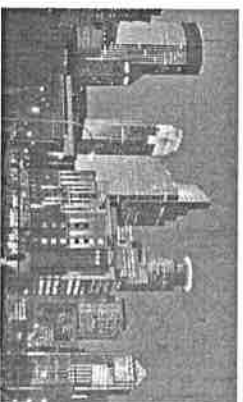
The Twin Cities' year-over-year growth rate has hovered around 1 percent. But last year was its best yet since 2010, with a 1.2 percent rise.

"That it is driven by migration speaks to the health of our economy, the draw that the metropolitan area is in that regard," Brower said.

Jack DeWaard, a University of Minnesota sociology professor, said that what little data is available about the latest migration trends hints that older people are moving here as well.

"Part of the reason that the Twin Cities has seen growth is not only because of Fortune 500 companies, but ... because people are moving back home," DeWaard said. "People are getting older and deciding to go back and be near family."

William Frey, who tracks census data for the Brookings Institution, said the metro area's numerical increase last year was its largest since at least 2000. He said other Midwestern cities also saw upticks last year, while booming areas in the Sun Belt simultaneously saw a slowdown.



(<http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/148>)



(http://stmedia.startribune.com/images/ows_1512678;

BRIAN PETERSON, STAR TRIBUNE

State demographer Susan Brower called the influx good news for the local economy, because existing residents are dying in higher numbers...

"I see this as part of a bigger kind of spreading out of the population than we've seen during the earlier years of the postrecession period," Frey said.

Out of the country's 25 largest metro areas, however, the Twin Cities 7.5 percent growth rate since 2010 ranks 17th. Peer areas like Denver and Seattle rank sixth and eighth, respectively.

The Twin Cities has outperformed its largest neighbor in the Midwest, however. The Chicago metro area has grown by less than 1 percent since 2010, and lost population last year.

The Twin Cities core continues to be a powerhouse of the state's growth. The metro area's seven primary counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington) contain just over half of the state's population. But they have accounted for 84 percent of the state's growth since 2010, according to the Metropolitan Council.

eric.roper@startribune.com 612-673-1732 StribRoper



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

March 26, 2018

Dear M. Laliberte and/or M. Duckett,

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) came to Minnesota in 1851 and by 1853 we founded St. Joseph's Hospital to address a cholera epidemic. Since that time, the CSJs have been actively involved in Minnesota healthcare including St. Joseph's Hospital, which is an integral part of the Saint Paul community.

We are writing in opposition to H.F. 3202 which would grant an exception to the construction moratorium thus allowing Region's Hospital to add 100 bed licenses.

We ask you to consider how passage of this legislation would give one of the three hospitals in the downtown St. Paul area an unfair advantage. HealthPartners' increased ability to direct its clients exclusively to its own hospital will impact patient choice and access.

Before the legislature provides exemptions that specifically benefit one facility, it is essential to understand the long-term and potentially deleterious impact this exemption will have on patient censuses at other area hospitals and on healthcare in our region.

Throughout our 161 years in St. Paul, we have advocated and worked for quality healthcare for all. We also understand that mission must be supported by good business, but we are concerned that this legislative action provides an exemption that gives one St. Paul business an unfair advantage over its competitors. The impact of this decision on the people of the City of St. Paul deserves careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, CSJ, former Minnesota State Commissioner of Health
Sister Margaret Belanger, CSJ, Reserved Powers Group, HealthEast, St. Joseph/Woodwinds Hospitals
Sister Susan Hames, CSJ, Province Leadership Team
Sister Suzanne Herder, CSJ, Province Leadership Team
Sister Dolore Rochon, CSJ, Reserved Powers Group, HealthEast, St. Joseph/Woodwinds Hospitals
Sister Cathy Steffens, CSJ, Province Leadership Team
Sister Anne Elise Tschida, CSJ, Reserved Powers Group, HealthEast, St. Joseph/Woodwinds Hospitals