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April 9, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Simon:

My name is David Dries and I have served in various roles in surgical leadership at Regions Hospital since coming to Regions Hospital and HealthPartners from the University of Michigan in 1999. Currently, I serve as Division Head for Surgery and Chief of Surgery for the Hospital. My clinical practice includes Trauma, Critical Care, Burns, and Emergency non-Trauma procedures. I am also a Professor of Surgery at the University of Minnesota and enjoy the opportunity to teach residents as we care for our patient population. I am writing in support of our proposal for 100 additional in-patient bed licenses. As you are aware, Regions Hospital serves a unique role in the East Metro as a safety net, Level I Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center and Burn Center.

I receive daily updates regarding our bed utilization and overall patient census. One need that stands out is additional beds in Behavioral Health. Regions has devoted construction of an entire Behavioral Health facility to the needs of patients with these problems in the East Metropolitan area.

Why do I mention Behavioral Health? Unfortunately, patients with Behavioral Health issues commonly have other traumatic or surgical problems. Our inability to adequately accommodate these patients limits my ability to care for their other needs. For example, our behavioral health census, as I write this, is frequently in excess of 100%. Thus, this group of patients is housed in the Emergency Department limiting my ability to provide other care that these and our other patients need. Finally, I note that Regions Hospital has committed to use a significant number of new bed licenses to give us additional Behavioral Health capacity. This will have a positive ripple effect on other teams providing patient care in the East Metro.

For these reasons, I urge you to find the Regions Hospital proposal for 100 additional in-patient beds in the public interest.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Dries".

David J. Dries, MSE, MD
Chair, Department of Surgery
HealthPartners Medical Group

Professor of Surgery
John F. Perry, Jr. Chair of Trauma Surgery
University of Minnesota

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