



Level I Adult & Level I Pediatric Trauma Center

Trauma Center Administration
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regionshospital.com

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

Dear Ms. Simon,

I am the director of the Level I adult trauma center at Regions Hospital, and have been serving in that capacity for the past 25 years. I am writing in support of Regions Hospital's proposal for 100 additional inpatient bed licenses because of trends that I am seeing that may soon have an impact on our ability to provide top notch trauma care.

Regions is **the** trauma and burn center for the East Metro area, but also serves as a safety-net hospital for patients to our north and south. During my tenure, I've seen our trauma volumes slowly increase. We have actually reached a point where the number of patients we provide injury care for meets and often exceeds the number at HCMC, our counterpart across the river.

But Regions is not only a trauma hospital. We provide comprehensive medical and surgical care in a wide variety of specialties, and draw those patients from a larger geographic area. These patients are just as needful of care as the acutely injured, but more and more frequently, they must all compete for beds when they need admission to the hospital. This ultimately means that patients may have to "wait in line" for an inpatient bed, typically residing in the emergency department until one becomes available. During several months in the past year, Regions was very close to or even slightly over capacity due to these patients waiting in the ED.

As you can imagine, this is not an experience that provides optimal patient satisfaction. It is also stressful for the many health care professionals within Regions who strive to provide the absolute best care for their patients. Having additional beds available will relieve this congestion, and will allow us to focus on our patients' needs and not worry about how much "room at the inn" there is. For these reasons I urge you to find Regions proposal for 100 additional inpatient beds in the public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. McGonigal".

Michael D. McGonigal MD
Trauma Medical Director
Director of Trauma Services
Regions Hospital