



# West Side Community Health Services

153 Cesar Chavez Street, St. Paul, MN 55107 651.602.7500 www.westsidetchs.org

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March 30, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Simon,

I am the lead nurse midwife at West Side Community Health Services. As the largest FQHC in Minnesota, we attend about 500 births per year at Regions Hospital. We are honored to serve women and families from the many diverse communities that make up our community. Last year we attended the births of women born in 44 different countries and from all across the income spectrum. Located at the heart of the city, Regions is a unique place that serves our community.

I am writing in support of Regions Hospital's proposal for 100 additional inpatient bed license. Regions serves a unique role in the east metro as safety-net, level 1 adult and pediatric trauma center, and burn center.

I have had the pleasure of working with the team who is designing the new Birth Center building at Regions Hospital. I have been so impressed with the care that is being taken to responsibly design a space that meets and serves the needs of women, children and families from the full array of the city and community. I am particularly thrilled that our new space will be able to offer the first mom-baby couplet care design in Minnesota for mothers and babies to room and stay together even if one or both of them requires a more intensive level of care.

The new building will also allow us to better meet the capacity needs for our women and children without having to overflow into space that is not designed or staffed to meet the unique needs of birthing mothers and children. At present, we need to move women of certain weight limits to other areas in the hospital because our current space does not allow us to care for them safely. We also have to separate moms and babies to provide for their individual needs when best care practices would keep the pair together.

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

Sincerely,

Sonja Batalden, MS, CNM  
Lead Nurse Midwife, West Side Community Health Services

La Clinica  
153 Cesar Chavez Street  
St. Paul, MN 55107  
651.602.7500

East Side Family Clinic  
895 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651.602.7500

McDonough Homes Clinic  
1544 Timberlake Road  
St. Paul, MN 55117  
651.602.7500

West Side Dental Clinic  
478 South Robert Street  
St. Paul, MN 55107  
651.602.7500

East Side Dental Clinic  
895 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651.602.7500

Health Care for the Homeless/House Calls  
438 Main Street  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
651.793.2201

Health Start  
895 East 7th Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651.793.2222

