



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