



REPLY TO:

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**Public Health Department**  
Bonnie Brueshoff, Director

REPLY TO:

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*Partnering to build healthy families and healthy communities*

April 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

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

Dear Sen. Benson and Rep. Schomacker:

On behalf of the Dakota County Public Health and Community Services Division, we want to write to you in full support of the application by Regions Hospital to expand its number of licensed hospital beds, SF2892/HF3202.

Dakota County is a vibrant and growing community that is becoming more diverse each year. Economically, the percent of our residents who are living below the poverty level is below that of state and nation, but it has generally increased from 2008 to 2012. We know that about seven percent of Dakota County residents are not insured. Regions Hospital and HealthPartners have been partners in our collaboratives working to improve the health of county residents.

As you know, Regions is also a large part of the health care safety net for the east metro, providing over \$16 million in charity care in 2017, and treats many patients that would otherwise have limited options. We applaud your leadership in supporting SF2892/HF3202 so that Regions can continue its work in providing the best possible care to the patients of our state, and especially the east metro.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Brueshoff, DNP, RN, PHN  
Public Health Director  
Dakota County Northern Service Center  
1 Mendota Road W Ste 410  
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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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