

JIM McDONOUGH
Chair
Board of Ramsey County Commissioners

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March 13, 2018

The Honorable Senator Michelle Benson
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Policy & Finance Committee
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Representative Joe Schomacker
Chair, House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
509 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Benson and Representative Schomacker:

I am writing on behalf of Ramsey County to express our enthusiastic support for your legislation to add 100 bed licenses to Regions Hospital so that they can serve a growing and aging patient population.

Ramsey County has a unique perspective on Regions' growth as the hospital was formerly county owned. Regions has provided excellent stewardship of the hospital and dedication to its mission as the safety net for the east metro as the largest provider of uncompensated care - \$17 million dollars in 2016. Our public private partnership is unique in that Ramsey County does not contribute funding for charity care provided by Regions.

Regions provides county residents the only Level 1 Adult and Pediatric Trauma Center and Burn Unit and also pays for a Ramsey County staff employee to assist patients in Medical Assistance enrollment. When the state ended coverage for the General Assistance Medical Care program, Regions was the only east metro hospital to care for this population as a part of the Coordinated Care Delivery System Program.

Senator Benson and Representative Schomacker

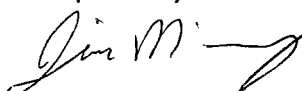
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Regions is also an important partner in providing workforce development opportunities – a key priority for the county. Regions is a Right Track employer, a member of the Central Corridor Anchor Partnership Workforce Development Group and is part of the State of Minnesota Apprenticeship Program. We are thrilled that this project will add 1,000 new jobs over the course of the expansion. Regions has made a strong commitment to creating career development pathways for their employees. Their commitment to their employees was illustrated with the Yellow Ribbon employer designation they earned last year.

Thank you for authoring Senate File 2892/House File 3202 so that Regions can continue its work providing the best possible care to the patients of our state, especially in Ramsey County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim M.", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim McDonough, Chair
Ramsey County Board of Commissioners
Regions Hospital Board Member

cc: Ramsey County Legislative Delegation