



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

Commissioner Jan Malcolm
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

April 20, 2018

Dear Commissioner Malcolm,

Does it matter if **St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul** closes? When Health Partners (HP) and its hospital, **Regions**, recently requested an additional 100 beds requiring an exception to an existing hospital building moratorium, in S.F. 2892 / H.F. 3202, we became alarmed at how this seemingly simple exception could impact our whole state. We ask that this **legislation not be voted on until the Minnesota Department of Health provides a complete and thorough assessment of this exception's impact on healthcare delivery in Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota.**

We are concerned that this exception could result in the loss of:

- **St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul.** (That would be a loss of approximately 200 active beds and about 1400 employees.)
- **105 inpatient beds in St. Paul dedicated to caring for patients experiencing mental health and chemical dependency crises.**
- **St. Paul's only Catholic Hospital.**

Long term, we believe this legislation could limit access, harm patients, and hurt area community hospitals while directly benefitting Regions/HealthPartners over its competitors. This includes people suffering from mental health and addiction issues.

*I worked at St Joe's as a chaplain.
I volunteer there also. It is a hospital
that is unique and essential in
our community*

In the 165 years since the St. Paul Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) founded St. Joseph's Hospital, we have given our lives in service to our "Dear Neighbors" most in need throughout St. Paul, Minnesota and beyond. We are concerned that this decision could disrupt healthcare services statewide.

Sincerely,

*Judith Oberhauser, CSJ, consecrate
and chaplain*



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As someone who has worked at St Joe's' hospital I am appalled at how Insurance companies manipulate and decimate at times the values and mission of health care groups such as the Sisters of St Joseph who simply want to care for the sick. This is

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Judith Oberhauser, CSJ consecrate

Not an issue between hospitals who do hire people with a mission sense. This is rather a conflict with health care Insurers such as Health Partners. They have consistently been profit-driven and Their decisions are based on financial gain. Regions is under This system and as a former health care worker for Health East I know of many times when ethics were shared by Health Partners policies in order to make more money. This is wrong and needs to be addressed.

I write This for Sr Gerri Lane, CSJ and Sister Marcan Louwage, CSJ, both committed chaplains for St Joe's, now deceased.