



# 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 have been a Sister of St. Joseph for 67 years and have received excellent care from St. Joseph's Hospital. Rather than solving the issue adversarially, will you please ensure that the parties collaborate? Have them meet and negotiate to craft a solution that will be good for each hospital and for patients in St. Paul. I certainly want St. Joseph's hospital to be able to continue to provide health care.*

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, *Florina Storch, CSJ*

*Thank you for facilitating a wise, compassionate resolution to this crucial issue. Count on my prayers.*