



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

Hospital Administrator
Hospital
Address
City, MN ZIP

Transmitted via email

September 24, 2021

Dear Hospital Administrator,

As you may be aware, the 2021 Minnesota Legislature adopted two exceptions to the Minnesota hospital moratorium in Minnesota 2021 Session Laws, 1st Special Session Chapter 7 Article 3, Section 30, Subdivision 1, (30). In adopting the exceptions, the Legislature did not waive requirements in Minnesota Statutes 144.552 for the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to conduct a public interest review.

The purpose of this letter is to seek feedback from Minnesota hospitals as part of our review on one of the two plans, namely, to add 45 licensed beds at **Regions Hospital in Saint Paul, Minnesota**. This planned expansion is expected add five inpatient mental health beds by the end of the year and 36 additional licensed medical-surgical beds by the spring of 2024.

In conducting our review, MDH considers a range of relevant factors, including the following specific issues:

- Whether the new beds are needed to provide timely access to care;
- The financial impact of the new hospital beds on existing acute care hospitals;
- How new hospital beds would affect the ability of existing hospitals to maintain staff; and
- The extent to which the hospital beds will provide services to nonpaying or low-income patients.

We would appreciate receiving any comments that address the factors identified above and others that you may consider relevant in the review. In addition, we would particularly appreciate your insights into how the proposal addresses potential capacity changes resulting from recent closures and service line changes for hospitals in the East Metro Area.

The Regions Hospital proposal, as well as correspondence and feedback to date, is available online for your consideration:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/data/economics/moratorium/regions2021/index.html>.

Hospital Administrator

Page 2

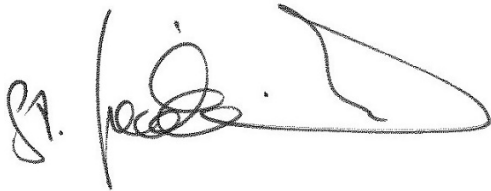
September 24, 2021

Please send comments on this proposal by **November 4, 2021** to Alisha Simon via email at health.pir@state.mn.us or by postal mail to:

Alisha Simon, Health Economics Program
PO Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

If you prefer, you may also contact me directly at 651-201-3554 or stefan.gildemeister@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'St. Gildemeister', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Stefan Gildemeister
Director, Health Economics Program
www.health.state.mn.us/healthconomics