



Minnesota
Department
of Health

October 27, 2015

The Honorable Kathy Sheran
Chair, Health, Human Services and Housing
Committee
Minnesota Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1606

The Honorable Tony Lourey
Chair, Finance - Health and Human Services
Budget Division Committee
Minnesota Senate
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1606

The Honorable Tara Mack
Chair, Health and Human Services Reform
Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1606

The Honorable Matt Dean
Chair, Health and Human Services
Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

To the Honorable Chairs:

Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.552, requires that any hospital seeking to increase its number of licensed beds or an organization seeking to obtain a hospital license submit a plan to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for review and assessment as to whether the plan is in the public interest. As required, this letter is to inform you of a project moving towards the step of public interest review.

On September 21, 2015 MDH received a letter of intent from Tandem Hospital Partners (Tandem) to seek licenses to operate freestanding 'micro hospitals' in the following communities in Minnesota: Apple Valley, Chaska, and Cottage Grove. Tandem described micro hospitals as facilities with 8 inpatient beds and 7-bed emergency rooms.

After a 30-day comment period, no competing proposals have been submitted. Formal plans for the proposed facilities will be requested from Tandem in order for MDH to conduct its review. Once complete information is available to MDH, we will conduct the review within a 90-day window, or during a six month period should we find extenuating circumstances requiring this longer period. The results of our review will be submitted to the Legislature for considering whether to grant an exception.

If you have any questions about the public interest review process, please contact Stefan Gildemeister by email at Stefan.gildemeister@state.mn.us or by phone at 651/201-3554.

Sincerely,

Diane Rydrych
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