

# American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

*One strong united voice for Minnesota workers*

300 Hardman Avenue S.  
South St. Paul, MN 55075  
(651) 450-4990  
(651) 455-1311 fax



211 West 2nd Street  
Duluth, MN 55802  
(218) 722-0577  
fax (218) 722-6802

[www.afscmemn.org](http://www.afscmemn.org)

February 22, 2018

The Honorable Senator Michelle Benson, Chair  
Senate Health and Human Services Policy and Finance Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3109  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Representative Joe Schomacker, Chair  
House Health and Human Services Reform Committee  
509 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs:

We are writing to you in support of your legislation to grant Regions Hospital an exemption to the hospital moratorium law in order to add 100 bed licenses.

As representatives of 1,072 Regions employees who serve the growing patient base we know that the additional capacity is needed to meet the needs of the growing and aging East Metro population. The unique services Regions' provides in the areas of trauma, burn, mental health and as a safety net hospital make the request even more critical.

In addition to meeting the needs of Regions patients, expanding Regions' capacity will result in approximately 1000 new jobs over the course of the expansion. We welcome these additional opportunities for Minnesotans to join and advance in the health care workforce.

Thank you for your authoring this legislation and supporting Regions' patients and workforce.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John P. Westmoreland'.

John P. Westmoreland,  
Executive Director  
AFSCME

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Julie Bleyhl'.

Julie Bleyhl,  
Legislative Director  
AFSCME