 HealthPartners®

April 9, 2018

Alisha Simon
Health Economics Program
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

Dear Ms. Simon,

I am David Busch, Vice President of Pharmacy Operations and have oversight of pharmacy practice across the HealthPartners organization, including Regions Hospital. I am writing in support of Regions Hospital's proposal for 100 additional inpatient bed license. Regions serves a unique role in the east metro as a safety-net, level 1 adult and pediatric trauma center, and burn center.

Each day Regions Hospital treats critically sick or injured patients who enter our Emergency Department and require further care in our hospital. The capacity of our hospital has been exceeded and the demand for hospital services by our patients has been maximized. Transferring patients to other hospitals is not in the best interest of our patients and their families.

Our Pharmacy team plays an important role in the care of our patients. As a safety-net hospital our out-patient pharmacy dispenses approximately 161,000 prescriptions on an annual basis. Our pharmacy will fill prescriptions for patients receiving service at Regions Hospital regardless of their ability to pay and patients will not leave without a prescription in hand. As an additive service to patients and the community, Regions hospital installed a medication take-back kiosk for patients to dispose of expired, unused and unwanted medications, including controlled substances. Controlled substance abuse has become a public health epidemic and Regions Hospital is providing a confidential, convenient and environmentally safe method to dispose of medications. This service will help to reduce controlled substances from being misused and abused or falling into the wrong hands. We are here to serve the community!

For these reasons I urge you to find Regions proposal for 100 additional inpatient beds in the public interest.

Sincerely,

David L. Busch, RPh, MS
Vice President of Pharmacy Operations
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