



West Side

Community Health Services

153 Cesar Chavez Street, St. Paul, MN 55107 651.222.1816 www.westsidechs.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 5, 2018

Alisha Simon

Health Economics Program, Minnesota Department of Health

P.O. Box 64882

St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

I am the Chief Clinical Officer for West Side Community Health Services (WSCHS). I began my professional career at Ramsey Hospital as a Family Medicine Resident in 1987. I came to work at WSCHS as a third-year resident in 1989. I have worked here since completing my training and have served as the Medical Director for almost twenty-five years. We have maintained a strong partnership with Regions Hospital for almost fifty years. They have served as our safety net hospital and specialty care partner which has enabled us to continue to serve the growing diverse communities of St. Paul. Regions Hospital has an outstanding community reputation for high quality care. Our providers have maintained very close working relationships with the Regions physicians' teams and rely on them for clinical support. Regions Hospital's role as a critical health care provider near the center of downtown has them uniquely positioned to continue serving all patients experiencing barriers to care.

I am writing this letter in support of Regions Hospital's proposed for a one-hundred additional in-patient bed license. I believe strongly that this expansion is essential for Regions to continue to meet the growing health care needs of our community. We are the largest Federally Qualified Health Centers in the state of Minnesota and view our ongoing relationship with Regions Hospital as critical to our ability to serve the needs of our patients.

I have personally had the opportunity to work directly with both physician care teams and Regions Hospital leadership teams. I have witnessed compassion, dedication, and a vision of positioning themselves to be successful in the future. This proposed expansion will support these goals. Our community health center has seen tremendous growth beginning as one site center serving three-thousand patients to a seventeen site network serving almost forty-thousand unique individuals. This growth is not sustainable without key partnerships like the one we have with Regions Hospital. For these reasons, I urge you to approve Regions request for one-hundred additional beds.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Nesvig, MD

La Clinica
153 Cesar Chavez Street
St. Paul, MN 55107
651.222.1816

East Side Family Clinic
895 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106
651.772.9757

McDonough Homes Clinic
1544 Timberlake Road
St. Paul, MN 55117
651.558.2191

West Side Dental Clinic
478 South Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55107
651.602.7575

Helping Hand Dental Clinic
506 West 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
651.224.7561

Health Care for the Homeless/House Calls
438 Main Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
651.647.2364

Health Start
895 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106
651.772.9757

