

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

Dear Ms. Simon,

My name is Meagan O'Brien and I'm a biology and biomedical science teacher at Washington Technology Magnet in St. Paul. I primarily teach 10th and 11th grade students who are actively beginning to prepare for their life beyond high school. Starting in 9th grade students begin preparing for health care related careers. Those who finish the program will graduate with a background in cell and general biology, genomics, anatomy and physiology, and microbiology. For several years Regions has offered our students the opportunity to get hands-on experience with many biomedical careers while listening to the stories of Regions staff who have been in my students' shoes before.

I am writing in support of Regions Hospital's proposal for 100 additional inpatient bed licenses. Regions serves a unique role in the east metro as safety-net, level 1 adult and pediatric trauma center, and burn center.

Regions Hospital is just a couple of miles from Washington. Many of my students live near Regions and have been or known people who have been patients. They've give my students the incredible opportunity to imagine themselves working there in just a few short years. In a school with more than 90% of students qualifying for free & reduced lunch, 96% students of color, and almost half are English Language Learners, many of my students are vulnerable and don't always know the vast career options that are available to them. Regions has helped us address that gap by warmly welcoming us and investing in our students' futures.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meagan O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meagan" being larger and more prominent than the last name "O'Brien".

Meagan O'Brien
Biology & Biomedical Science Teacher