



March 2, 2018

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

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

Dear Chairs Benson and Schomacker,

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.

The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault is involved with a network of support systems across Minnesota for sexual violence survivors and awareness. Through this, we are able to connect educative and preventative efforts with real-time responses to sexual violence, promoting a culture both understanding, and just, around sexual assault.

This network includes the Regions Hospital SANE Program. Within this program, nurses specially trained to care for patients following a sexual assault partner with advocacy and provide support and medical forensic exams for survivors in the Twin Cities, playing an essential role in the recovery and justice process.

This legislation is critical to our continued support of sexual violence survivors. These additional beds will provide the opportunity for traumatized and vulnerable patients to be seen more timely because the Emergency Department will not be boarding inpatients who are waiting for beds to open up upstairs. An additional 100 bed licenses will help ensure that Regions Hospital is doing the best it can to support the survivors of these crimes.

Thank you for authoring this legislation and supporting the needs of patients.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Teri Walker McLaughlin", is written over the typed name.

Teri Walker McLaughlin  
Executive Director

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