



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
St. Paul Province

March 22, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Simon:

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) came to Minnesota in 1851 and by 1853 we founded St. Joseph's Hospital to address a cholera epidemic. Since that time, the CSJs have been actively involved in Minnesota healthcare including St. Joseph's Hospital, which is an integral part of the Saint Paul community.

We are writing in opposition to S.F. 2892 which would grant an exception to the construction moratorium thus allowing Region's Hospital to add 100 bed licenses.

We ask you to consider how passage of this legislation would give one of the three hospitals in the downtown St. Paul area an unfair advantage. HealthPartners' increased ability to direct its clients exclusively to its own hospital will impact patient choice and access.

Before the legislature provides exemptions that specifically benefit one facility, it is essential to understand the long-term and potentially deleterious impact this exemption will have on patient censuses at other area hospitals and on healthcare in our region.

Throughout our 161 years in St. Paul, we have advocated and worked for quality healthcare for all. We also understand that mission must be supported by good business, but we are concerned that this legislative action provides an exemption that gives one St. Paul business an unfair advantage over its competitors. The impact of this decision on the people of the City of St. Paul deserves careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Sister Mary Madonna Ashton, CSJ, former Minnesota State Commissioner of Health
Sister Margaret Belanger, CSJ, Reserved Powers Group, HealthEast, St. Joseph/Woodwinds Hospitals
Sister Susan Hames, CSJ, Province Leadership Team
Sister Suzanne Herder, CSJ, Province Leadership Team
Sister Dolore Rochon, CSJ, Reserved Powers Group, HealthEast, St. Joseph/Woodwinds Hospitals
Sister Cathy Steffens, CSJ, Province Leadership Team
Sister Anne Elise Tschida, CSJ, Reserved Powers Group, HealthEast, St. Joseph/Woodwinds Hospitals