



Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

St. Paul Province

Commissioner Jan Malcolm
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

April 20, 2018

Dear Commissioner Malcolm,

Does it matter if St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul closes? When Health Partners (HP) and its hospital, Regions, recently requested an additional 100 beds requiring an exception to an existing hospital building moratorium, in S.F. 2892 / H.F. 3202, we became alarmed at how this seemingly simple exception could impact our whole state. We ask that this legislation not be voted on until the Minnesota Department of Health provides a complete and thorough assessment of this exception's impact on healthcare delivery in Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota.

We are concerned that this exception could result in the loss of:

- St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Paul. (That would be a loss of approximately 200 active beds and about 1400 employees.)
- 105 inpatient beds in St. Paul dedicated to caring for patients experiencing mental health and chemical dependency crises.
- St. Paul's only Catholic Hospital.

Long term, we believe this legislation could limit access, harm patients, and hurt area community hospitals while directly benefitting Regions/HealthPartners over its competitors. This includes people suffering from mental health and addiction issues.

The recent decision by St. Joseph's Hospital to devote more than half of its beds to patients with mental health and chemical dependency issues speaks to the long-term commitment by St. Joseph's (rooted in the mission of the Sisters of St. Joseph) to serve the underserved at the same time that the number of patients with this particular need ^{NOW} is increasing dramatically. My own mother benefitted dramatically from her care in that department at St. Joseph's.

In the 165 years since the St. Paul Province of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet (CSJs) founded St. Joseph's Hospital, we have given our lives in service to our "Dear Neighbors" most in need throughout St. Paul, Minnesota and beyond. We are concerned that this decision could disrupt healthcare services statewide.

Sincerely,

Mary Kaye Medinger, CSJ Conscience (associate)