

To the Minnesota Department of Health – Health Economics Program

Attn: Stefan Gildemeister, State Health Economist & Director; Cara Bailey, Program Deputy Director; Alisha Simon, Assistant Program Manager / Lead Review Contact

January 30, 2026

My name is [REDACTED] I am writing as both a long-term Regions Hospital employee (over 12 years) and a HealthPartners patient with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am an affected party under this review and submit this comment for inclusion in the official Public Interest Review record regarding Regions Hospital's proposed 85-bed expansion.

I understand the desire to expand capacity. However, before granting this expansion, I respectfully ask the Department to evaluate whether Regions/HealthPartners is currently meeting its obligations to existing patients and disabled employees under federal and state disability-rights laws.

1) Barriers to patient access and continuity of care

On or about [REDACTED] 2025, I went in person to the HealthPartners Neuroscience Center to schedule a follow-up with my established specialist, Dr. Terry Barclay (Clinical Director of Neuropsychology). I was blocked at the front desk and was not allowed to schedule with him. I did not receive timely, contemporaneous written policy or documentation explaining that barrier when it occurred. Months later, I received written confirmation that I could “not be scheduled” with Dr. Barclay. This is a serious access concern in a system now seeking to expand its public-facing service footprint.

2) Treatment of a disabled employee and the ADA interactive process

I have consistently received “Exceeds Expectations” performance evaluations and maintain excellent attendance. In 2019, following Dr. Barclay's recommendations for accommodation, I was moved from a higher-paid [REDACTED] role to a lower-paid Linen Services position after a prolonged and ineffective accommodation process. More recently, during the 2025–2026 interactive process, basic accommodations were only implemented after repeated requests and escalation. These facts raise concerns about whether disability accommodations are being handled proactively and in good faith.

3) Active federal and state civil-rights oversight

Because of these issues, I have filed disability-related complaints that are currently under review by multiple oversight bodies, including:

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services – Office for Civil Rights (OCR): [REDACTED]
- U.S. Department of Justice – Civil Rights Division: Record [REDACTED]
- The Joint Commission – Office of Quality & Patient Safety: Incident [REDACTED]
- Minnesota Department of Health – Health Regulation Division: complaint on file

I have also contacted Senator Amy Klobuchar's office regarding oversight and coordination, given the disability-access and continuity-of-care concerns inside a federally funded health system.

In addition, HealthPartners Human Resources has stated in writing that my complaint regarding the [REDACTED] 2025 barrier to scheduling with Dr. Terry Barclay was referred to the HealthPartners Integrity & Compliance team for independent review. As of today, I have not been provided an internal reference or case number for that review, despite requesting it for tracking purposes.

Given these active matters, I respectfully submit that it is squarely within the public interest for MDH to carefully examine whether Regions/HealthPartners is in full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and related patient-access standards before authorizing additional expansion.

I am not opposed to increased hospital capacity. I am asking that expansion be conditioned on demonstrated, consistent compliance with disability-rights and patient-access obligations so growth does not occur at the expense of vulnerable patients and workers already within the system.

Thank you for considering this comment as part of the official 2025 Public Interest Review record.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Note: [REDACTED] I use voice-to-text and basic AI tools to assist with written communication. I have reviewed this message carefully and confirm it reflects my understanding to the best of my ability.