



November 7, 2025

Stefan Gildemeister
Director, Health Economics Program
Minnesota Department of Health

Dear Mr. Gildemeister,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments as part of the public interest review on the proposed exception to the state’s hospital bed moratorium for an 85-bed expansion of Regions Hospital (“Regions”) in Saint Paul. We appreciate the opportunity to engage in this important dialogue and remain committed to supporting solutions that strengthen access to care across the East Metro.

Allina Health, a fully integrated health system, operates 11 hospital campuses, 65 primary care clinics, and 14 urgent care centers across the Twin Cities, central and southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin – including United Hospital in Saint Paul. United Hospital provides a full range of health care and is recognized nationally and locally for its expertise and care. United Hospital serves more than 200,000 patients and their families each year. United currently has roughly 450 staffed beds and operates at or near capacity on most days.

Allina Health remains supportive of the public interest review process as a way to provide additional perspectives on proposed hospital expansion projects and consider those proposals’ merit through the lens of current and future community needs.

As a longstanding safety net provider, Regions plays a critical role in serving high-need populations, including those reliant on public programs. We believe it is essential to recognize and preserve this role, particularly as the state evaluates proposals that impact capacity and funding. In this context, we respectfully raise the following questions for consideration:

- **How is Regions’ designation as a safety net hospital being factored into the Public Interest Review (PIR)?**
- **How will the proposed bed expansion enhance access for Medicaid and uninsured patients, and what metrics will be used to evaluate that impact?**

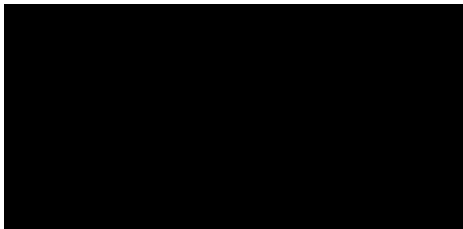


- **What safeguards exist to ensure that increased inpatient volume does not inadvertently reduce capacity in other critical service areas, such as mental health or substance use disorder treatment?**

We want to be clear that we are not opposed to additional beds. In fact, we recognize the ongoing need for decompression across the system and believe that Regions' expansion could relieve pressure on surrounding facilities, reduce delayed admissions, and improve patient flow.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Regions and the Department of Health to ensure that this proposal aligns with the broader goals of equity, access, and sustainability in Minnesota's health care system.

Sincerely,



Jill Ostrem
President, United Hospital
Allina Health