

March 19, 2024

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Regions Hospital to express our support for Regency Hospital of Minneapolis LLC's (Regency) proposed project, which involves relocating 26 of its 92 currently licensed hospital beds from Golden Valley to St. Paul. This proposal presents an opportunity to address the east metro's need for more specialized long-term acute care services.

Regency, with its established reputation as a leader in post-intensive care and recovery, brings invaluable expertise in treating medically complex patients. Their focus on helping patients regain independence in essential life functions is a critical component of holistic patient care.

The proposed Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH) within Regions Hospital, functioning as a "Hospital within a Hospital" (HIH), will enhance the continuum of care for critically ill patients. This collaboration will enable patients to receive specialized care in a familiar environment and maintain continuity with their existing healthcare providers. The relocation of these 26 LTACH beds also provides a more geographically equitable distribution of this limited resource, increasing access in the east metro, and reducing the travel burden for patient families and visitors. It will also help alleviate capacity pressures in our Intensive Care Unit, Coronary Intensive Care Unit, and Surgical Intensive Care Unit, ensuring more efficient use of those limited but critical service lines and availability for those that need them the most.

Moreover, the integration of the Proposed LTACH on our campus allows for the leveraging of our existing ancillary clinical services. This includes our clinical laboratory, medical imaging, and surgical services, among others, which will be critical in providing comprehensive care to LTACH patients. We also believe this HIH model represents good stewardship of healthcare dollars by leveraging an existing hospital site, rather than building a new standalone facility that would be significantly more expensive.

The project's focus on patient-centric care, coupled with its commitment to community engagement and alignment with local healthcare needs, resonates with our own values at Regions Hospital. We value Regency's commitment to serving patients on Medicare and Medicaid, as well as providing charity care to those facing financial hardship. We believe that this initiative will not only improve the quality of care for our patients but also contribute to the overall health and well-being of our community. We hope committee members will recognize the value of this LTACH bed relocation and look forward to partnering with Regency to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,



James McClean,
Government Relations Director- Care Delivery, HealthPartners