

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
One strong united voice for Minnesota workers

300 Hardman Avenue South
South St. Paul, MN 55075
Council5@afscmemn.org



Phone (651) 450-4990
Fax (651) 455-1311
Toll Free (800) 652-9791

April 7, 2022

Honorable Tina Smith
United States Senate
309 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your strong support of health care workers and public employee union members. We are writing to support the Regions Hospital Emergency Department (ED) Expansion proposal for Community Project Funds that will improve care for patients and working conditions for employees.

The 1169 AFSCME Council 5 Local 722 members work at Regions Hospital providing critical support to patients in the emergency department. Our members help patients access public coverage programs and apply for Regions' charity care and are integral members Regions' lifesaving care teams.

The funding proposed in this third phase of the emergency department expansion project would renovate two moderate- to high-acuity units to better serve patients. These units serve forty percent of the department's visits each year, or about 38,000 patient visits. Regions Hospital is the only level one trauma and the burn center in the east metro, caring for the region's most gravely injured and ill patients. Regions is also the largest provider of charity care in the east metro.

As the community we serve continues to grow and age, demand for inpatient hospital care will grow as well. Public investment via Community Project Funds will leverage Regions' limited resources as well as private donations from a supportive community, to ensure Regions Hospital can continue to provide state-of-the-art life saving care to anyone in need, regardless of ability to pay.

Thank you for your consideration of our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Bleyhl".

Julie Bleyhl
Executive Director
AFSCME Council 5, AFL-CIO

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Honorable Betty McCollum
United States House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McCollum:

Thank you for your strong support of health care workers and public employee union members. We are writing to support the Regions Hospital Emergency Department (ED) Expansion proposal for Community Project Funds that will improve care for patients and working conditions for employees.

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April 7, 2022

Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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