



March 20, 2023

Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance & Policy Committee,

On behalf of St. Luke's Hospital, we would like to respectfully raise our concerns regarding the administrative review and approval processes for health care transactions outlined in HF 402, as amended.

St. Luke's believes that the current review and oversight processes and procedures in place for health care entity transactions have been working effectively for many years. These significant regulatory procedures have ensured appropriate oversight of health care entity transactions and allowed systems in Minnesota to meet the needs of our patients, families, and communities. We question the need for additional oversight given the current robust processes already in place that are working well.

Health care delivery is ever-changing as hospitals and health systems continually adapt their services and care delivery to meet patient needs and the needs of the communities they serve. Denying a health care entity transaction could result in essential health care services being eliminated from communities in our state. Adaptability and flexibility are hallmark characteristics of health care organizations and are vital as we try to survive the long-lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. St. Luke's is concerned that HF 402, as amended, will limit the ability of hospitals and health systems to make timely and nimble organizational adjustments necessary to stay viable to serve our patients and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Lohn".

Eric Lohn
Co-President/CEO & CFO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. U. Van Deelen".

Dr. Nick Van Deelen
Co-President/CEO & CMO