

RESOLUTION

Board of Hennepin County Commissioners

RESOLUTION: 26-0130

At a meeting of the Board of Hennepin County Commissioners, a motion was made by Commissioner Goettel, and seconded by Commissioner Anderson, that the Resolution be adopted. The motion passed.

WHEREAS, Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc. (HHS) is a government-owned safety net hospital and Level 1 trauma center providing critical care to Minnesota and the surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, over 75 percent of patients at HHS receive care paid for through public programs such as Medicaid and Medicare; and

WHEREAS, HHS is the largest Medicaid provider system in Minnesota ; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1/3 of patients coming to HHS are from outside Hennepin County; and

WHEREAS, 40 percent of patients needing trauma or burn specialty care from 2020 to 2024 were from outside Hennepin County; and

WHEREAS, HHS provided patients with \$104 million in uncompensated care in 2024, with \$24 million of uncompensated care in 2024 attributed to patients from outside Hennepin County; and

WHEREAS, HHS is a teaching hospital responsible for training 31% of Graduate Medical Education trainees and 60% of Undergraduate Medical Education Trainees in Minnesota; with 71% of all learners staying in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, HHS is home to the only Addiction Medicine Fellowship Program in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, over 400 patients per day are seen in the addiction medicine clinic; and

WHEREAS, HHS is home to the Minnesota Regional Poison Center; and

WHEREAS, HHS providers provide advice and guidance to healthcare providers across the state, supporting and enhancing their effectiveness in providing quality care throughout a five-state region; and

WHEREAS, HHS is facing \$1.7 billion in projected revenue loss over the next ten years due to the impact of federal Medicaid program changes enacted in H.R.1, including the elimination of Directed Payments which will cost HHS \$1.1 billion over ten years and dis-enrollment in Medicaid resulting in an additional estimated loss of \$600 million over ten years; and

WHEREAS, all healthcare systems are facing challenges and HHS's role, as the state's safety net hospital and as a trauma center serving pediatrics and adults, makes it uniquely vulnerable to these changes in healthcare policy; and

WHEREAS, HHS is interconnected to the statewide healthcare ecosystem and works interdependently with other healthcare facilities throughout the state, including North Memorial, the other Level 1 adult trauma center in Hennepin County; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2025, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners took over interim management of Hennepin Healthcare Systems due to its worsening financial status and risk of potential closure by the end of 2025, to ensure operational continuity and to develop and implement a strategy that brings financial stability to the health care system, ensuring that residents across Hennepin County and the State of Minnesota can continue to access high-quality health care services; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2025, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners adopted Resolution 25-0513, instructing the county administrator to conduct a comprehensive review of HHS governance, including identifying successful and less-successful elements of past governance, areas of needed transformation, opportunities to enhance transparency and alignment with the County, and ways to improve engagement with the community, workforce, patients/clients, leadership, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, the County currently has a 0.15 percent ballpark sales tax that generated revenue for the construction of Target Field as a public asset for the benefit of Minnesota and the surrounding areas, and continues to provide annual funding for extended library hours and youth activities grants in Hennepin County as well as the annual operating expenses of the Minnesota Ballpark Authority.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners supports increasing the county's 0.15 percent ballpark sales tax to 1.00 percent in order to support Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc. (HHS) as the critical safety net hospital serving Minnesota and the surrounding states; support North Memorial as a Level 1 trauma care provider in Hennepin County; continue funding for youth activities grants, extended library hours, and Minnesota Ballpark Authority operations; and maintain support for operability of Target Field as a public asset that is a first-class Major League Baseball stadium that meets industry standards.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 4/7/2026

The question was on the adoption of the resolution with the votes as follows:

Aye: 7 Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Goettel, Commissioner Lunde, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Edelson, and Commissioner Anderson

Maria Rose



Maria Rose