



State Representatives

## **Kurt Zellers and Joyce Peppin**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

## **North Memorial Hospital Proposal Passes Minnesota House with Overwhelming Bi-partisan Support**

**ST. PAUL** (April 26, 2005) – The Minnesota House of Representatives today overwhelmingly passed legislation that would allow Robbinsdale, Minn.-based North Memorial Health Care to build an 80-bed hospital facility in Maple Grove. The bill, HF 1915, sponsored by Rep. Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove) and Rep. Joyce Peppin (R-Rogers) passed with broad bi-partisan support on a 126 to 5 vote.

“North Memorial is a world-class hospital facility and I am pleased to help lead the charge to bring them to Maple Grove. Today’s overwhelming, bi-partisan vote shows there is not only a need, but that North Memorial is the clear choice,” Zellers said. “North has provided 50 years of service to the community and in addition to exceptional obstetric and pediatric care services, North has a nationally renowned Level I Trauma center, a leading heart and stroke center as well as Humphrey cancer center.”

“North is the right hospital at the right time for Maple Grove and surrounding communities,” Peppin added. “The Northwest suburbs are seeing explosive growth and are home to some of the deadliest stretches of highway in the state. We need a hospital now and we need one that has expertise in Level I Trauma.” Peppin concluded, “Today’s broad, bi-partisan vote is proof we can work together for the better of all our communities. I am proud of the work we were able to accomplish today.”

In addition, Peppin noted that North Memorial has strong ties to the residents of Maple Grove and surrounding communities, as well as strong support from affected cities. The cities of Dayton, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Corcoran, and many others have passed resolutions in favor of North Memorial.

Since 1984, Minnesota has had a moratorium on new hospitals and has required legislative action to permit the construction of new facilities. At the request of the city of Maple Grove, the Minnesota Department of Health launched a study last fall of the feasibility and impact a new hospital would have on Maple Grove and surrounding communities. In March, the Department of Health released findings indicating that it would be in the public interest to build a hospital in Maple Grove and that the community could support a new facility.