

March 14th, 2022

Senator Paul Utke
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF1257

Dear Chair Utke and Committee Members,

On behalf of Allina Health, I am writing to express our strong support for SF1257, which would exempt individuals licensed by a health-related licensing board, who have completed the background check required for licensure, from being required to complete a duplicative DHS study.

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system operating across the Twin Cities, central and southern Minnesota, including 11 hospitals and 90+ clinics and a total of more than 28,000 employees system wide. Allina Health, like many other health systems across the state, is not immune to the emergence of staffing challenges created and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The regulatory relief provided by waiving background check requirements for licensed health care professionals was instrumental in ensuring we could meet the staffing demands brought on by COVID-19.

We take the health and safety of the patients we serve seriously. It's the bedrock for every decision we make. That's why it's important to emphasize that the background check and fingerprinting requirements being waived in this bill are duplicative in nature. The health care professionals included in this bill are already licensed by their respective licensing boards, who require their own background check and fingerprinting.

SF1257 is a reasonable and responsible step in supporting the state's workforce challenges. This bill will help DHS clear the extensive backlog of background and fingerprint studies, allowing them to process other studies, while not compromising patient care and safety.

Thank you for your support of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,



Amy Brannan Gaynor
Vice President, Talent Acquisition & Workforce Planning
Allina Health