



March 23, 2022

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, representing 6,300 employers and their more than 500,000 employees across the state, we urge your support for SF 3071 (Rosen), improving efficiency and transparency in the licensure processes at the Board of Medical Practice and the Board of Nursing.

In April 2021, the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce Foundation released **Minnesota 2030: A Framework for Economic Growth**. This report details both the challenges and opportunities the state faces this decade in charting a path forward for continued economic growth and opportunity for all Minnesotans. Not surprisingly, the report highlights the challenges we as a state face with regard to finding and equipping enough workers to meet the growing demands of our economy. Helpfully, Minnesota 2030 includes a number of recommendations about how to address our growing workforce needs. Underlying all of these recommendations, though, is a simple premise. As the single most important input into our economic destiny, we must collectively learn how to better “leverage Minnesotans.”

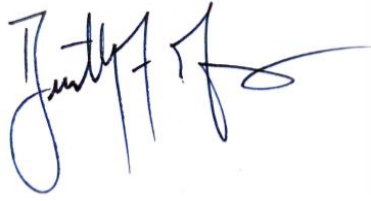
The COVID-19 pandemic has upended life in virtually every economic sector, but its impact on the health care sector will be felt for years to come. For many reasons, the challenges that all employers face in attracting and retaining talented workers have been multiplied in the health care sector by the pandemic. We encourage state leaders to find new ways to reduce any barriers that may exist to prevent or hamper the movement of interested individuals into the workforce generally, but the need for action related to the healthcare sector, in particular, is urgent.

By updating the application and review processes at the Board of Nursing and Board of Medical Practice, SF 3071 will help to ensure that those who wish to provide their services to the health care sector can do so through a licensure process that is timely, efficient, and provides certainty.

Given the important work before all of us to “leverage Minnesotans” as a strategy to ensure economic growth and opportunity in the years ahead, we support SF 3071 and proposals like it to put Minnesota in the best position possible to meet the ever-increasing demand for workers and talent.

Sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bentley Graves", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Bentley Graves
Director, Health Care & Transportation Policy