

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

SOPHIA VINOGRADOV, MD
Professor and Department Head
Donald W. Hastings Endowed Chair

*Department of Psychiatry
& Behavioral Sciences
Medical School*

*F282/2A West
2450 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454-1495
TEL: 612-273-9800
Email: svinogra@umn.edu*

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Sen. Mark Koran
3101 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave West
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Koran,

As Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the University of Minnesota I am writing this letter in strong support of the Senate File 3424 and to thank you for your authorship of this bill to provide addiction medicine fellowship funding. The University of Minnesota and HCMC (Hennepin Health Care) have partnered for several years to provide this critical training of physicians and have trained primary care physicians in the skills to become leaders and excellent clinicians. This fellowship program began in the early 1980's and interest in training has grown as has the critical need to provide evidence-based care. Each year the program struggles with funding; there are not enough stipends within the medical centers to provide this training for fellows. Through the tireless work of its faculty, this program has received full accreditation by the American Council of Graduate Medical Accreditation.

This funding request would train 15 physicians in the specialty of addiction medicine over 5 years at the fellowship housed between the University of Minnesota Department of Psychiatry and HCMC's addiction medicine department.

The opioid epidemic continues and mortality from opioids and other substances of abuse continues to increase. This high rate of mortality disproportionately effects underserved populations. Only about one-tenth of persons with addiction ever receive treatment. Funding our fellowship will train physicians to serve Minnesotans as experts in the prevention, clinical evaluation, treatment, and ongoing care of those with addiction. Several of our recent fellows are working to train other physicians, provide addiction care in a primary care setting, running Project ECHO's, treating underserved patients in urban and rural areas.

Sincerely,

S. Vinogradov MD

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