



# MINNESOTA STATE

## HealthForce Center of Excellence

March 23, 2022

Senator Jason Rarick  
Senator Greg Clausen

Re: Support for SF 4096

Senators:

As someone who leads, champions, and implements healthcare workforce initiatives, I am pleased to share my support for SF 4096. It is rare that allied health positions – such as those covered in this bill – get the recognition they deserve. During the pandemic, it is these professionals who have led testing efforts, integrated with public health, and cared for the sickest patients.

I lead the HealthForce Minnesota Medical Laboratory Workgroup – a group of laboratory managers and educators that meets monthly. During a Workforce E-Summit we held in February, lab vacancies were estimated to be 700+. Many hospitals do not even receive applicants for jobs. A scholarship program for medical laboratory scientists and medical laboratory technicians is one of many strategies that we believe can increase the number of students choosing these programs.

The needs for the other occupations are similar. Respiratory Therapists have been heroic over the pandemic and recognizing the importance of that role is applauded. Similarly with other shortage areas of rad tech and surg tech.

I also believe that the success we have experienced with the Next Generation Nursing Assistant initiative speaks to the value of covering all – or some – of the costs of education and training. While targeted at a different level of education, capitalizing on the success of state support makes great sense and I believe will have a great impact.

Thank you for this important legislation.

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