



March 14, 2023

Senator Steve Cwodzinski, Chair Senate Education Policy Committee
MN Senate
95 University Ave W
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3207
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator John Hoffman
MN Senate
95 University Ave W
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3207
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Cwodzinski, Members of the Committee and Sen. Hoffman:

On behalf of the Long-Term Care Imperative, a joint initiative of the state's two largest senior care associations we would like to express our support of SF2500, Credit for Employment with Health Care Providers, and ask for your support for this much needed legislation.

As you may be aware, from local media and constituents in your respective districts, the senior care sector is facing its greatest workforce challenge to date. With over 20,000 open positions, which is over 20% of our total workforce, there is considerable urgency to attract new people to our profession so we can continue to play a vital role in the health care continuum today and into the future. In the next five years, 50,000 more Minnesotans will be 80 years or older, so our need for caring professionals will only grow. As such, we appreciate and support any effort to incentivize individuals to work in our sector.

Earn and learn models like SF 2500 are effective workforce solutions that allow for more personalized learning outside of the classroom. This bill offers students an incredible opportunity to serve their community, gain work experience and deepen their world perspective all while simultaneously earning a paycheck and high school credit. Long-term care workplaces are unique environments that offer the chance to serve and interact with people of various physical,

cognitive and behavioral abilities. These are places where the complexity of life is apparent daily and navigating through them is a learning experience in itself. We know that students would find value in this work and the seniors we serve would also benefit greatly.

Solving our workforce crisis will require multi-pronged solutions, including much needed investments to increase wages in our sector so we can attract and retain workers. HF 613 is one such intervention, to create viable pathways for students to enter our workforce and serve our growing senior population.

We ask that you support SF 2500 and stand ready to work with the author to ensure this important legislation meets the needs of both students and the profession.

Sincerely,



Nicole Mattson, LHSE
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives
Care Providers of Minnesota
Long Term Care Imperative



Erin Huppert
Vice President of Advocacy
LeadingAge Minnesota
Long Term Care Imperative

CC: Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee, Danna Elling Committee Administrator, David Zak, Legislative Assistant