

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

*Department of Psychiatry
& Behavioral Science
Medical School*

*F282/2A West
2450 Riverside Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55454
Main Office: 612-273-9800*

March 28, 2023

Sen. Omar Fateh
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Fateh:

As the Program Director for the Minnesota Addiction Medicine Fellowship, I am writing to ask you to include \$270,000 in funding per year for the Addiction Medicine fellowship in your omnibus bill. Our faculty at Hennepin County Medical Center, University of Minnesota, and the VAMC provide this critical expansion of the work force by training physicians in addiction. We were very disappointed that it was not included in the senate omnibus bill. You have been supportive of this bill and our efforts as the author of this legislation, and we sincerely request and urge you to reconsider and include this in the senate omnibus bill. We partner with several institutions and populations to serve those in rural and underserved areas and to serve those with co-occurring mental health, pain, and other serious health conditions.

Funding the fellowship has consistently been difficult; piecing together funding from different sources has limited the number of physicians we are able to train. Our recent fellows are serving the entire state of Minnesota by running Project ECHO's, treating patients in critical populations and locations around the state and becoming teachers and leaders.

Please reconsider funding SF1269 just as the House funded HF1339. You can reach out to me at speck001@umn.edu for any questions or Susie Emmert at susie.emmert@hcmcd.org at Hennepin County Medical Center.

Sincerely,



Sheila Specker, MD
Addiction Psychiatrist
Program Director, Minnesota Addiction Medicine Fellowship
University of Minnesota