



March 28, 2023

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

Dear Chair Fateh:

Hennepin Healthcare is writing to ask you to include \$270,000 in funding per year for the Addiction Medicine fellowship in your omnibus bill. As the author of this legislation, you know this is the only addiction fellowship in Minnesota and is a partnership between the addiction medicine clinic at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and the University of Minnesota Department of Psychiatry with rotations also at the Minneapolis VA medical center and Meridian Behavioral Health Care in Owatonna.

This fellowship needs this critical funding to ensure we can continue to train physicians in the specialty of addiction medicine. Substance use disorder continues to be pervasive throughout Minnesota and requires continuing, comprehensive drug overdose prevention and response efforts. Funding our fellowship will train physicians to become experts in the prevention, clinical evaluation, treatment, and ongoing care of those with addiction. Our recent fellows are running Project ECHO's, treating patients in critical populations and locations around the state and becoming teachers themselves.

It has been very difficult for us to continually piece together funding to train physicians who are helping battle the disease of addiction throughout our state.

Please reconsider funding SF1269 just as the House funded HF1339. Please reach out Susie Emmert at susie.emmert@hcmcd.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gavin Bart, MD, PhD
Chief of Addiction Medicine
Hennepin Healthcare

Dr. Charles Reznikoff, MD, FACP, FASAM
Addiction Medicine Clinic
Hennepin Healthcare