

February 17, 2023

Barry W. Fick
Executive Director
Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority
380 Jackson Street
Suite 450
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Mr. Fick,

Thank you for updating me on the Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority's plans to expand the organization's conduit issuing authority to provide bond financing for health care and senior living borrowers. As you shared, this proposal would allow Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority to serve as a full-service conduit issuer, provide a consistent approval, documentation, and financing process, and reduce overall costs of conduit issuance.

With Essentia Health's geographic footprint across multiple cities and counties throughout northern Minnesota, eastern North Dakota and western Wisconsin, it would be helpful to have an option to use a conduit issuer that has state-wide jurisdiction.

Essentia Health believes that the expansion of Minnesota Higher Education Facilities Authority's conduit issuer authority to include health care and senior living borrowers would be beneficial and is supportive of the expansion.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Thank you,

Traci J. Morris

Chief Financial Officer

Traci g. Merris

218-786-3178

Traci.Morris@EssentiaHealth.org