

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

*Twin Cities Campus*

*Department of Psychiatry  
& Behavioral Sciences  
Medical School*

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

February 8, 2023

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

Rep. Erin Koegel  
445 State Office Building  
100 Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

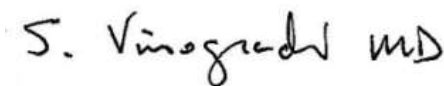
Dear Sen. and Chair Fateh, Rep. Koegel,

As Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the University of Minnesota I am writing this letter in strong support of the SF1269/HF1339 and to thank you for your authorship of this bill to provide addiction medicine fellowship funding. The University of Minnesota and HCMC (Hennepin Health Care) have partnered for several years to provide this critical training of physicians and have trained primary care physicians in the skills to become leaders and excellent clinicians. This fellowship program began in the early 1980's and interest in training has grown as has the critical need to provide evidence-based care. Each year the program struggles with funding; there are not enough stipends within the medical centers to provide this training for fellows. Through the tireless work of its faculty, this program has received full accreditation by the American Council of Graduate Medical Accreditation.

This funding request would train up to three physicians in the specialty of addiction medicine over 2 years in the fellowship sponsored by the University of Minnesota Department of Psychiatry and HCMC's addiction medicine department. In the 2023-2024 academic year, the program has recruited four excellent physicians, which is the most the program has ever trained. This is evidence of the increased interest, dedication, and passion for providing addiction care to Minnesotans.

The opioid epidemic continues and mortality from opioids and other substances of abuse continues to increase. This high rate of mortality disproportionately effects underserved populations. Our current fellow, who is African-American, is dedicating her career to serving these populations. Only about one-tenth of persons with addiction ever receive treatment. Funding our fellowship will train physicians to serve Minnesotans as experts in the prevention, clinical evaluation, treatment, and ongoing care of those with addiction. Several of our recent fellows are working to train other physicians, provide addiction care in a primary care setting, running Project ECHO's, treating underserved patients in urban and rural areas.

Sincerely,



Sophia Vinogradov, MD  
Professor and Department Head  
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science