

February 13, 2023

Senator Omar Fateh
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building
Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF1288 (Putnam) Allied Health Technician Scholarship Program Establishment

Dear Chair Fateh and Committee Members,

On behalf of Allina Health, we would like to express our support for SF1288. The goal of SF1288 is to establish a grant program, by the year 2026, for scholarships for approximately 1,000 students pursuing a career in a specified health technician program.

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system with 11 hospital campuses, 65 primary care clinics, and 14 urgent care centers across the Twin Cities and central and southern Minnesota. As a not-for-profit health system, employing over 27,000 employees, we understand the unique and evolving needs of the modern workforce. In 2022, according to a report from the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), hospitals across Minnesota saw an almost 250% increase in job vacancy rates over the previous year—with the overall vacancy rate rising from 6% in 2021 to about 21% in 2022. It's clear that our state's workforce is in dire need of proactive, ambitious and innovative solutions.

The provisions included in SF1288 would be a tremendous asset for providers as we look to revive our health care workforce and workforce pipeline, as well as the students looking to enter the field. This proactive solution will help move the needle on Minnesota's workforce in a positive direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and thank you to the authors for their work on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Brigitte Rath
Vice President, Talent Acquisition
Allina Health