



February 13, 2023

Sen. Omar Fateh, Chair, Higher Education Committee
3219 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155
RE: Senate File 1288 (Allied health technician scholarship program establishment)

Dear Chair Fateh,

We are writing today to express our organization's support for Senate File 1288. Healthcare providers, including Ambulatory Surgery Centers, are facing severe workforce shortages as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and changing demographics in the state of Minnesota. Staff turnover continues to be costly and problematic for ASCs, and among at least one of our members, the turnaround time to hire Radiology Technicians and Surgical Technicians can last up to 135 days.

Our association would like to direct your attention to the 2022 Workforce Report by the Minnesota Hospital Association, which provides significant empirical evidence to the impact of workforce shortages on healthcare settings. The report highlights issues in staff recruitment and retention, turnover, the need for diversity in representing the communities that providers serve, and other challenges that our members and Minnesota ASCs are facing.

We believe that SF 1288 takes important steps to decreasing the number of open positions and reducing the amount of time to fill positions. This bill would also lessen strain on the current healthcare workforce, as currently one position often must serve the work of two or more positions. Establishing a health technician scholarship program also exposes people to healthcare that may then advance their career into Nursing, Physician Assistants, and many others.

Our association strongly supports SF 1288 and its effort to create a health technician scholarship program. For these reasons, we urge you to support SF 1288.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Tracy Mills, President
MNASCA

CC
Sen. Aric Putnam