

## Dear Senator/Representative:

The Minnesota Society for Respiratory Care (MSRC) is the professional organization of respiratory therapists in Minnesota. MSRC strongly supports passage of SF1288 (HF1340), which would establish a scholarship program for respiratory therapy students and other allied health professions.

The pandemic took a toll on health care in our state and country, and one of the results is a very serious shortage of respiratory therapists. The trauma to RTs who were literally in the face of Covid, putting their lives and their loved ones' lives at risk to care for patients has caused burnout, mental health issues, and early retirement. Many RT's lost patients at rates unheard of in their entire careers. RT education and training takes a few years, so we need to pass this bill as soon as possible to encourage people to become respiratory therapists.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our government relations attorney, Bill Amberg (Bill@amberglawoffice.com).

Sincerely yours,

Christopher Bosley - President MSRC