



Minnesota Hospital Association

161 Saint Anthony Ave., Ste. 915
Saint Paul, MN 55103-2382

www.mnhospitals.org

March 23, 2023

Submitted Electronically

Chair Fateh and members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), we write in strong support of SF 2390 (Rarick) which appropriates additional funding to the Office of Higher Education to increase the capacity of the successful "earn and learn" Dual Training Competency Grant (DTG) program.

Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are experiencing an unprecedented workforce crisis and significant investment is needed specifically in higher education support programs to ensure access to care for all Minnesotans. DTG is one of the most significant sources of state workforce development funding available to hospitals and health systems, allowing organizations to train the next generation of health care professionals including occupations such as certified nursing assistants, registered nurses, community health workers, medical laboratory technicians, respiratory therapists, and surgical technologists. DTG grants allow employers to reimburse instruction expenses for current employees attaining a degree, certificate, or credential, which significantly helps with both recruitment and retention efforts.

Health care services are one of the eligible DTG industries, which also provides grants for advanced manufacturing, agriculture, and information technology training. Minnesota health care organizations have received over \$3.6 million in training dollars since 2015 for tuition and fee reimbursement, resulting in over 600 workers in the health care sector obtaining a higher education credential while advancing their employment opportunities. While we are grateful for this investment, there is much more interest and demand for the Dual Training Pipeline Program than what is currently funded.

The proposed increase in funding in SF 2390 allows for the maximum DTG grant amount for employers to increase from \$150,000 to \$250,000, and for their DTG employees to increase from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per year. This increased investment will help accommodate the rising cost of educational programs and expand training capacity at hospitals and health systems, as well as other eligible employers participating in the program.

MHA is grateful to Senator Rarick and the Committee for their efforts to help strengthen the health care workforce, which significantly relies on investments in higher education. Please support SF 2390 (Rarick) and the expansion of the successful Office of Higher Education Dual Training Competency grant program.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Mary Krinkie
Vice President of Government Relations
mkrinkie@mnhospitals.org
Cell: (612) 963-6335

Danny Ackert
Director of State Government Relations
dackert@mnhospitals.org
Cell: (616) 901-7500