



Minnesota Hospital Association

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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 multiple provisions in the Senate Higher Education Omnibus Bill (SF 2075 - Fateh) that support the development, recruitment, and retention of Minnesota's health care workforce. Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are experiencing an unprecedented workforce crisis and significant investment is needed specifically in higher education programs to ensure access to care for all Minnesotans. As such, we strongly support the following provisions:

- **Dual Training Competency Grant (DTG) Funding.** 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 across many high demand patient care occupations. The new and additional funding for DTG will help the Office of Higher Education meet the current demand for the program. (Article 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 21)
- **Minnesota State Learning Network of Minnesota Investments** for equipment upgrades and industry sector programming improvements, specifically in health care.

We also recognize the significant investments made towards directly supporting higher education students and providing new opportunities to ensure that they leave their programs stronger than when they began. We all need students to succeed and in particular, MHA supports investments that encourage students to succeed as they pursue a desperately needed career in health care. As such, MHA encourages Chair Fateh and the Committee to consider including the following provisions:

- **SF 1288 (Putnam) Allied Health Technician Scholarship Program.** Allied health technicians are critical to delivering direct patient care across all of Minnesota's hospitals and health systems. There are currently over 7,000 open allied health technician positions and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) estimates that this number will continue to increase in coming years. The scholarship program is a needed one-time investment to recruit the next generation of desperately needed allied health professionals in Minnesota.
- **Minnesota State's workforce development scholarships and improvements for equipment and learning environments**
- **SF 1269 (Fateh) Addiction Medicine Graduate Medical Education Fellowship program at Hennepin County Medical Center**

MHA is thankful to for the Committee's work and consideration on the serious nature of Minnesota's health care workforce shortage during session thus far. As such, we encourage Chair Fateh, Vice Chair Putnam, and the Committee to consider ongoing support and the addition of programs that specifically invest in the development, recruitment, and retention of Minnesota's health care workforce as this bill moves forward in the process. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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