



DATE: 2/14/2023

RECIPIENT: Minnesota Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee

Chair Champion and members,

Medical Alley and our more than 800 members represent one of the most diverse and influential healthcare communities in the world. We are a critical partner and connection point between companies, talent, and the broader Medical Alley community, which employs more than half a million Minnesotans. Many of these partners are small businesses – creating and advancing the next generation of medical breakthroughs and technologies.

It is because of this perspective and expertise that we support Minnesota Senate File 1284 – to fund the SciTech Internship Program.

The SciTech Internship Program connects college STEM majors with valuable on-the-job learning opportunities in companies throughout Minnesota. Since the program's launch in 2012, more than 2,500 interns have been placed in 145 cities and towns, in both the Twin Cities and Greater Minnesota.

In Medical Alley, the biotechnology and life sciences sectors utilize this program significantly, accounting for more than 20% of the company applicants in 2022. One of those companies is Medical Alley partner Miromatrix – which is working to eliminate the organ transplant wait list by bioengineering transplantable human livers and kidneys. Last summer, three students were able to work with the teams at Miromatrix, earning real-world experience at one of Medical Alley's shining examples of healthcare transformation and innovation.

For Medical Alley and Minnesota to thrive, the state must not only grow and support a talented workforce – it must also *retain* it. More than ten years after the program's inception, 79% of SciTech interns stayed in Minnesota for at least two years after graduation. To prevent “brain drain” – losing homegrown talent to other states – and to ensure Medical Alley's innovation economy continues to thrive, programs like the SciTech Internship Program must be a priority.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if Medical Alley can provide any additional information or be a resource for this committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roberta Antoine Dressen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roberta" being the most prominent part.

Roberta Antoine Dressen

President & CEO

Medical Alley