

February 13, 2024

Senator Melissa Wiklund  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107

**Re: SF2508 (Mann) Thrombectomy-capable stroke centers designation**

Dear Health and Human Services Committee Chair Wiklund and committee members,

On behalf of Allina Health, I am writing to express our support for SF2508, which would allow eligible hospitals to be designated as a thrombectomy-capable stroke center.

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system with 11 hospital campuses, 65 primary care clinics, and 14 urgent care centers across the Twin Cities, and central and southern Minnesota. Our hospitals, clinics, and urgent care centers see over 7.5 million annual visits combined – and over 360,000 visits to our emergency departments. Allina Health is proud to offer advanced stroke care through Mercy Hospital, designated by the Joint Commission as a thrombectomy capable stroke (TSC) center. The Stroke Center at Mercy Hospital provides a comprehensive evidence-based approach to stroke care from diagnosis and treatment to rehabilitation.

Allowing hospitals to be designated as thrombectomy-capable stroke centers ensures that patients can go directly to best-practice facilities that provide the highest standard of care. Without such designations, patients may be transported to a facility ill-equipped to provide advanced stroke treatment. This delay or disruption in care can put patients at risk and lead to worse outcomes overall. To that end, the Minnesota EMS Acute Stroke Routing tool recommends transporting patients to the closest endovascular capable stroke center, recognizing that thrombectomy-capable, comprehensive stroke centers can provide these services 24/7.

SF2508 would strengthen the continuum of care across our state and help ensure patients receive the appropriate care they need when they need it. Allina Health urges the committee to support this potentially life-saving legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Jay MacGregor, MD  
Vice President of Medical Affairs  
Mercy Hospital, part of Allina Health