



March 12, 2024

Minnesota Senate
Committee on Health and Human Services
SF 4382 (Kupec)

Dear Committee Members,

The Minnesota Business Partnership is a membership organization comprised of the top business leaders from Minnesota's largest employers, employing almost half a million workers across the state. Health care availability, access, and equity are incredibly important to our members, and I want to express our concerns regarding SF 4382.

The circumstances that contribute to a hospital service line closure are predictable, but the arrival of those circumstances at a particular hospital are not. Increasing the notification period to the Department of Health from the current requirement of 120 days is an unworkable mandate to put on our hospital systems that are already facing operational challenges while continuing to deliver care to patients.

While a hospital can be forced to drop a service line due to financial challenges, it can also be a result of a shortage of specialized healthcare providers, and more broadly, the workforce crisis health care is facing.

We know the significant challenges our hospitals - and specifically rural hospitals - are facing. Demographics, economics, and geography can all work against the sustainability of rural healthcare – but pinpointing exactly when those conditions will create a crisis for a particular hospital is not possible, and SF 4382 puts greater pressure and uncertainty on an already unpredictable situation.

Sincerely,

Abby Loesch
Health Policy Director
Minnesota Business Partnership