

April 17, 2024

Dear Sen. Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Finance Committee,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we have come together as the Healthcare Workforce Support Policy Coalition to identify policy opportunities that help address healthcare and social services industry challenges. Our members represent a broad representation of healthcare providers, including hospitals, dental providers, and ambulatory surgical centers to name a few. We believe that SF 4101 is an example of one way the state can help address a workforce challenge by providing support to those who pursue a career in healthcare, which often requires one or more advanced degrees. Thank you for including this proposal in your omnibus bill (article 5, section 9).

The goals outlined by our coalition include making it easier to work in the state of Minnesota, upskilling and reskilling the current workforce, and encouraging new professionals to seek a career in healthcare. Determining solutions is an ongoing process, and we, as a coalition, endorse education support broadly as it helps to both make it easier to work in the state, can allow those to advance through career through and helps position the healthcare field as an enticing one to enter. The legislation's focus on loan forgiveness aligns with all of these goals and signifies to healthcare professionals that the state supports their efforts. SF 4101 is a positive approach to making professions in the industry more sustainable and attractive for not just nurses, but also technicians, EMS providers, doctors, dentists and other professionals.

Thank you for supporting education and prioritizing those who dedicate their careers to providing quality care for Minnesota's patients. These steps are vital to increasing the number of Minnesotans entering the healthcare workforce and supporting their growth throughout their careers.

Respectfully,

