



03/29/24

RE: SF 4912

Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

Medical Alley represents a global network of more than 800 leading health technology and care companies in all corners of this state. Our mission is to activate and amplify healthcare transformation.

Minnesota, recognized globally as a leader in healthcare innovation, sets a standard for excellence which not only impacts local communities but extends its influence worldwide. With access, affordability, and quality as top priorities, Medical Alley and our partners are committed to developing solutions which drive meaningful change and save lives.

It is with these guiding principles that we extend our support for Senate File 4912.

Innovation

For more than 135 years, the University of Minnesota has been an accelerator of innovation, not just within our state but across the globe.

Senate File 4912 would enable new Medical Discovery Teams, which work to advance research and care surrounding critical issues affecting Minnesota and may impact global public health. With a focus on mental health, infectious disease, cancer, and more — these initiatives could lead to breakthroughs in medical science and health policy, enhancing the well-being of communities worldwide. These teams have also helped to attract world-class faculty and researchers to the University.

Additionally, this appropriation would expand the University of Minnesota's Center for Learning Health Systems (CLHSS), which integrates research, care delivery, and continuous improvement to enhance patient care and build resilient health systems. Increased funding could strengthen CLHSS's ability to develop, implement, and evaluate innovative healthcare solutions, further driving Minnesota's leadership in healthcare innovation.

Workforce Development

Minnesota's health and life sciences sector faces substantial challenges – including a critical shortage of healthcare professionals and the need for a more diverse workforce to better reflect the communities they serve. This is especially prevalent in Greater Minnesota, where nearly one in three rural physicians plan to leave their profession within the next five years, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.



By investing in education, training, and workforce development at the University of Minnesota's six health science schools, this legislation could help alleviate staffing shortages by attracting more individuals into healthcare professions and retaining existing staff through improved career development opportunities. Additional funding would enable new career pathways and partnerships for critically needed professionals in areas such as nursing, where it's estimated that more than 600,000 nurses will leave the workforce by 2027.

Ultimately, this comprehensive approach to workforce development would not only address immediate shortages but also contribute to a more robust and equitable healthcare system in the long term, making Minnesota a national model for health sciences education and workforce diversity.

Health Equity

The University of Minnesota's Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC) is the state's first and oldest community center, serving nearly 10,000 patients of all income levels, with and without insurance. Its mission is transforming care and education to advance health equity.

This funding will allow these facilities to see more patients in underserved areas. CUHCC also trains more than 170 future healthcare professionals to serve a culturally and ethnically diverse patient population specifically in primary care — a sector which is facing a significant shortage of providers.

By allocating these funds toward the development and expansion of the University of Minnesota academic health system, we are funding a future where healthcare is more accessible, equitable, and efficient for all Minnesotans. This strategic investment will enable the University of Minnesota to attract and retain top talent, drive forward critical research and innovation, and ensure that Minnesota remains a global leader in healthcare transformation.

Medical Alley respectfully urges legislators to support Senate File 4912.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Peter Glessing'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Glessing
Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy
Medical Alley