



April 8, 2025

Senator Omar Fateh
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Higher Education Funding for the United Family Medicine Residency Program

Chair Fateh and members of the committee,

On behalf of the United Family Medicine Residency Program, part of Allina Health, and the patients and communities we serve, I am writing to urge the committee to maintain the current funding for our residency program at \$501,000 per year, in SF2483 – the Higher Education omnibus bill.

The United Family Medicine Residency is a nationally recognized, ACGME accredited program with 21 residents (7-7-7) focused on providing care to underserved and rural communities. Each year, our program receives over 200 applications from across the country for the seven open positions looking to make an impact in primary care and community medicine.

Our mission is To Serve and To Teach. Through our program, residents gain the skills and experience necessary to address the unique and evolving healthcare needs of our communities, including community-based medicine, underserved and homeless healthcare, rural medicine, and more. The United Family Physicians Clinic provides high quality, full-spectrum primary care for patients of all ages, with a focus on meeting the needs of the medically underserved as well as caring for members of the community who span the economic spectrum. Other ambulatory experiences include caring for patients for addiction, including medically assisted treatment, working in partnership with local community organizations on joint initiatives and projects, and making regular patient home visits.

Cutting resources from this program is a detriment to medical education in Minnesota, to underserved and rural communities in desperate need of providers, and a disservice to the residents who come from all over the country to make a difference in community medicine. We ask that the Committee maintain the grant for the UFMF program into the Higher Education omnibus.

Please support this important legislation as part of ensuring timely access to care for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristen McHenry".

Kristen McHenry
Vice President, Public Affairs and Community Benefit and Engagement
Allina Health