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To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am pleased to strongly support the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program as outlined in S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921. As an oncologist practicing at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato and New Prague, Minnesota, and as President of the Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology, I see daily the critical need for enhanced cancer care accessibility in rural regions.

My clinician experiences and roles on the Board of the Minnesota Medical Association have heightened my commitment to advocating for effective cancer care policy, particularly initiatives that improve healthcare equity. The proposed pilot, which provides rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows, directly targets one of our most pressing challenges: addressing the shortage of oncology professionals in underserved rural areas.

This pilot program addresses immediate healthcare gaps and ensures long-term sustainability and community resilience by nurturing local oncology expertise. The economic and social benefits to rural communities will be substantial, making it a powerful model for future policy development in cancer care.

I urge your support of this essential initiative, which represents an impactful investment in Minnesota's healthcare future and the well-being of its rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amrit Singh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amrit" and last name "Singh" clearly distinguishable.

Amrit Singh, MBBS
President, Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology (MSCO)



ASCO State/Regional
Affiliate Program

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I'm writing to share my full support for the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program included in S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921. As CEO of Lakewood Health System, I care deeply about ensuring our rural communities have access to high-quality cancer care, and this proposal is a critical step in tackling the shortage of oncology providers in Greater Minnesota.

Lakewood has a strong history of teaching and mentoring future healthcare providers. Every year, we host two Rural Physician Associate Program (RPAP) students from the University of Minnesota Medical School. This hands-on training in a rural setting has not only benefited our patients but has also helped grow our rural provider workforce—many of our current physicians are proud RPAP alumni.

We're now building on that foundation. In collaboration with the University of Minnesota and North Memorial, we're launching a rural Family Practice with Obstetrics Residency Program. Residents will spend their first year at North Memorial and then complete two years of training with us at Lakewood, gaining a deep understanding of what it means to care for rural communities. Programs like this are proven to increase long-term retention of providers in rural areas.

The Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program builds on this model. Offering oncology training in rural settings will help grow a stronger, more sustainable workforce while also improving access to timely, high-quality cancer care—close to home.

I strongly encourage your support of this program. It's not just an investment in training the next generation of providers—it's a meaningful step toward ensuring rural Minnesotans have equitable access to the care they need.

Sincerely,
Lisa Bjerga
Chief Executive Officer
Lakewood Health System



LISA BJERGA
PRESIDENT/CEO
O: 218-894-8352

LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM
49725 County 83 | Staples, MN 56479

Letter of support

1 message

Pritchett, Joshua C., M.D. <Pritchett.Joshua@mayo.edu>
To: Wade Swenson <wade@ruralcancer.org>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 9:07 AM

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am writing to enthusiastically support the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F.2921. As an oncologist and researcher at Mayo Clinic Health System dedicated to rural health and remote patient monitoring, I recognize the profound impact this initiative can have on improving oncology care access across Minnesota's rural communities.

In my clinical practice and research, I've seen firsthand the disparities rural patients face, including significant barriers to timely and effective cancer care. This pilot program directly addresses these challenges by training healthcare providers within rural settings by establishing rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows. This experience prepares clinicians to deliver culturally competent and community-focused care and significantly enhances patient outcomes and healthcare sustainability.

Moreover, this pilot has potential economic benefits by retaining healthcare services locally, contributing to the vitality and resilience of rural economies. The model the Rural Cancer Institute envisioned provides a clear pathway to addressing oncology workforce shortages and offers a scalable solution applicable to rural healthcare nationwide.

I would appreciate your support for this vital legislation, which represents a critical investment in Minnesota's future of rural health and oncology care.

Sincerely,

Josh Pritchett, MD

—

Joshua Pritchett, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine and Oncology

Mayo Clinic | [200 First Street SW](#) | [Rochester, MN 55905](#) | [mayoclinic.org](#)



To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am writing to strongly support the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program as proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921. As the President/CEO of Madelia Health and the Regent for the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), I have seen firsthand the challenges rural communities face in accessing specialized cancer care. This pilot program presents a significant opportunity to address these challenges by expanding oncology training and services to rural Minnesota.

Like many rural healthcare providers, Madelia Health is committed to ensuring our patients receive high-quality care close to home. However, the shortage of oncology specialists in rural areas often forces patients to travel long distances for cancer treatment, causing emotional and financial strain. Establishing rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows will help build a sustainable workforce of oncology professionals who understand the unique needs of rural populations.

This program is not only a health initiative but also an economic one. Rural hospitals like ours can retain patients within their communities by increasing local access to cancer care, supporting local healthcare infrastructure, and creating jobs. Training programs like the one proposed will encourage providers to remain in rural areas, fostering long-term community resilience.

I firmly believe the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot will serve as a model for other states facing similar challenges. I respectfully urge your support for this important initiative to ensure equitable access to cancer care for all Minnesotans, regardless of where they live.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David F. Walz".

David F Walz MBA, BSN, RN, CNN, FACHE
President/CEO, Madelia Health
MN Regent, American College of Healthcare Executives



Support for the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921, which seeks to create rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows in Minnesota.

1 message

Kamboj, Jasmine, M.D. <Kamboj.Jasmine@mayo.edu>
To: "wade@ruralcancer.org" <wade@ruralcancer.org>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 8:25 AM

Wade Swenson, MD, MPH, MBA
[Rural Cancer Institute](#)
[Rural Oncology Conference - Kansas](#)
[Linktr.ee](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921, which seeks to create rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows in Minnesota. I have practiced in Northern MN, at Bemidji, Sanford Health and could not overemphasize the need of training in rural oncology rotations with its specific challenges. As a practicing oncologist at Mayo Clinic Health System in Northfield and an advisor to the Rural Cancer Institute, I witness firsthand the urgent need for expanding access to quality oncology care in our rural communities. Particularly for oncology, we have almost 20% cancer patients in rural USA but only 10% oncologists practice in Rural USA.

My involvement with the Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), specifically my roles within ASCO's Community of Practice Policy and International Affairs Committee, have reinforced my commitment to initiatives addressing healthcare disparities. The proposed pilot aligns directly with these commitments by strategically placing trainees in underserved rural areas and cultivating a skilled workforce ready to serve these communities long-term.

Beyond clinical impacts, this initiative will significantly enhance rural economies, support local healthcare infrastructures, and ensure equitable cancer care access throughout Minnesota.

The Rural Cancer Institute's innovative approach addresses immediate clinical needs and serves as a scalable model that could inform nationwide rural oncology practices.

I wholeheartedly urge your support for this critical legislation, which represents a meaningful investment in the healthcare future and the economic vitality of Minnesota's rural communities.

Sincerely,

Jasmine

Jasmine Kamboj, MD, FASCO

Oncologist, Mayo Clinic Health System, Northfield, MN
Board Member, Minnesota Society of Clinical Oncology
Co-lead, Community of Practice Policy, American Society of Clinical Oncology
Member, International Affairs Committee, American Society of Clinical Oncology
Advisor, Rural Cancer Institute
Host and Editor, "Empowering Oncologists" Podcast, OncoDaily
Editorial Board Member, OncoDaily

Jasmine Kamboj MD FASCO

Senior Associate Consultant
Hematology and Medical Oncology
Northfield Hospital (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)
MCHS SEMN/NWWI (Thursday)
Kamboj.jasmine@mayo.edu
[Mayo Clinic Health System](#)

March 31, 2025

Dear Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am pleased to enthusiastically support the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921, which seek to establish specialized rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows in Minnesota. As a healthcare educator and professional, I recognize the profound need for accessible, quality cancer care in our rural communities.

Expanding oncology education into rural areas aligns perfectly with our mission at Minnesota State University Moorhead to train healthcare leaders responsive to underserved communities' evolving needs. Rural healthcare disparities, especially in oncology, require innovative approaches, and this pilot represents the kind of forward-thinking solution we should embrace.

I am confident that investing in rural oncology rotations will enhance the education of healthcare providers and significantly improve patient outcomes across Minnesota's rural regions. Thank you for considering this vital initiative.

Respectfully,

Brandi Sillerud, DNP, MSN, RN, NEA-BC

Professor, MHA Program Coordinator

School of Nursing & Healthcare Leadership

Minnesota State University Moorhead

1104 7th Ave S

Moorhead, MN 56563

brandi.sillerud@mnstate.edu

218-205-6781



Nancy Torrison <nancy@abreathofhope.org>
To: "wade@ruralcancer.org" <wade@ruralcancer.org>

Mon, Mar 31, 2025 at 1:10 PM

To the Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

I am honored to submit this letter of support for the Rural Cancer Institute's pilot program proposed under S.F. 3085 and H.F. 2921. As the Executive Director of A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, I am deeply committed to advancing cancer care access and improving outcomes for all Minnesotans, particularly those in underserved rural communities.

At A Breath of Hope, we are acutely aware of rural cancer patients' challenges. Limited access to oncology specialists, long travel times, and financial burdens are often significant barriers to timely diagnosis and treatment. This pilot program presents a tangible, effective solution to these issues by establishing rural oncology rotations for medical students, residents, and fellows. By providing hands-on experience in rural settings, the program will cultivate a dedicated, well-trained oncology workforce more likely to serve these communities in the future.

Furthermore, ensuring that rural patients access specialized cancer care closer to home will undoubtedly lead to earlier diagnoses and improved survival rates. This initiative's impact will extend far beyond individual patients, strengthening entire communities and fostering healthier futures.

I am confident that the Rural Cancer Institute's vision, in collaboration with Minnesota's exceptional healthcare institutions, will make a meaningful and lasting difference. I respectfully urge your support for this critically important program.

Sincerely,

Nancy Torrison
Executive Director
A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation

Nancy Torrison
Executive Director
A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation
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Work Cell: 952-807-6111

More about us: abreathofhope.org

Literacy-based patient education: youandlungcancer.com

Early Detection: mncreens.org

ABOH EVENTS: abreathofhope.org/events/



A Breath of Hope
LUNG FOUNDATION