



April 7, 2025

Senator Bobby Joe Champion
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Champion and Members of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee:

Thank you for hearing the impact of Hired's work in, for and with community. AND thank you for including Hired's bill in the Senate's omnibus bill! This direct appropriation will help workers prepare for employment in high growth sectors through effective, employer-co-created training programs and, importantly, support individuals in the first chapter of their employment to keep their jobs, advance in their company, and build stability and wealth for their families, all while stabilizing workers for employers.

I so appreciate your willingness to hear Hired's story as well as Bill Shepherd's testimony from Medtronic—who shared that **people definitively need help preparing for employment AND navigating the workplace and life barriers to keep their jobs.**

As you know, Hired is a long-standing, stable workforce development nonprofit with strong outcomes that works in community to connect jobseekers to employers across the Twin Cities. We holistically support individuals through job coaching, training, and support services.

Hired's proposed bill addresses this critical training needs and persistent gaps. It is all about **helping people assemble the skills to land a job and navigate a strong start in their job.** In today's workforce and economy, many of the people we work with face historic, systemic and situational barriers and inequities to not just finding, but also *sustaining*, employment. We have found people also need **support connecting to or navigating needed community resources, and support services to address unexpected emergencies or reemerging barriers that could end employment...**very often transportation, housing, childcare and food barriers.

The majority of people we serve are people of color, have low and very-low incomes, and face critical disparities in employment, education, health outcomes, and more. Hired is part of the solution in closing persistent employment disparity gaps in the State, and in addressing inequities that relate to income and employment disparities.

Thank you for hearing our story, for hearing Bill Shepherd's and my testimony. There is still a worker shortage in Minnesota, and we continue to see a mismatch between existing jobseeker skills and the skills that are needed by employers.

Sincerely,

Julie Brekke
Executive Director

cc: Tom Melton

Empowered people & families. A prepared workforce. An inclusive economy.

217 Fifth Avenue North - Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401 · TEL 612-808-9500 · FAX 612-338-1375 · www.hired.org