*Submitted Electronically*

March 14, 2023

Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Emily Masters and I am the Chief Human Relations Officer for Windom Area Health. I write to you on behalf of Windom Area Health in support of HF 2090 (Reyer) and the proposed increase in funding for the Minnesota Department of Health Summer Health Care Internship Program (SHCIP).

Through direct financial support for paid summer internships, SHCIP seeks to continue addressing health care workforce shortages by introducing secondary and postsecondary students to careers in health care in a non-classroom environment dedicated to their learning. SCHIP helps fund at least one-half the costs of employing the secondary and postsecondary summer health care interns working in hospitals, clinics, nursing facilities and home care providers.

Windom Area Health has regularly participated in SHCIP and has employed multiple interns over the years we have participated in the program. This program has helped feed our pipeline of future employees, something that every healthcare facility is struggling with. Had it not been for the SHCIP program, our facility would not have been able to employ as many students, exposing them to a variety of healthcare careers.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) currently estimates over 50,000 open health care jobs across our state. This is a crisis, and it is not sustainable for the care that all Minnesotans deserve. Multiple steps must be taken at the legislature to address this shortage, including increased funding for SHCIP.

We urge you and this Committee to support HF 2090 (Reyer) and increase the ability of Windom Area Health to foster interest amongst our states secondary and postsecondary students in pursuing a health care career and expand the pipeline for Minnesota’s health care workforce.

Thank you for your consideration for my comments.

Sincerely,



Emily Masters

Chief Human Relations Officer

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