



February 2023

Chair Bobby Joe Champion
Jobs and Economic Development Committee
Minnesota State Senate
MN Senate Building, Room 3401
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Jay Xiong
Workforce Development Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
557 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Champion, Chair Xiong, and Committee Members,

I write to extend Mayo Clinic's support of the funding ask for the Bridges to Healthcare program in the Rochester, Austin, Albert Lea, Owatonna communities, with expansion plans to Rice County. The legislative vehicle for this request is SF 984 (Sen. Boldon), HF 1025 (Rep. Smith). Mayo Clinic strongly supports this funding ask as Bridges to Healthcare is an important community-based workforce development program that helps educate diverse talent, while addressing critical workforce needs in health care.

As a business partner of the program, Mayo Clinic appreciates the impact of the program's efforts and is committed to ongoing collaboration to ensure we strengthen the number of diverse adult learners being trained for high-demand health care careers through individualized education. Since the inception of our partnership with the program's founding partners, Mayo Clinic has hired approximately 260 graduates, with about 80% of those hires identifying as diverse. The top roles hired by Mayo Clinic include personal care assistant/certified nursing assistant, desk operations, and phlebotomist. These are difficult entry-level roles that many health care organizations in the state (and country) are struggling to find talent for. We are fortunate to have a program like Bridges to Healthcare in Southern Minnesota that is as successful and impactful as it is.

We support this bill and ask you support funding this request to ensure uninterrupted programming and service that Bridges to Healthcare provides for Minnesota's health care workforce needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Misun Bormann".

Misun Bormann
Director of Workforce Development, Human Resources
Mayo Clinic