



A collaboration among the University of Minnesota,  
University of Minnesota Physicians and Fairview Health Services

March 14, 2023

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

My name is Laura Beeth and I serve as the Vice President of Workforce Partnerships for Fairview Health Services. I write to you on behalf of Fairview in support of HF 2090 (Reyer) and its 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. SHCIP 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. This is a valuable resource as health care organizations continue to suffer financially from increased costs, such as workforce and continuing impacts from COVID-19.

Fairview has participated in SHCIP and has employed numerous interns over the years we have participated in the program. SHCIP interns at our care facilities directly engage with the care process in many ways and with many feeder secondary and post-secondary programs. Minneapolis and St. Paul First Generational High School Students in partnership with STEP UP and RightTrack participate in summer internships throughout our Minneapolis and St. Paul locations. These interns have held roles in both clinical areas and support areas. These interns stay connected through mentoring and future job opportunities. In addition, we've had numerous post-secondary clinical interns in our system, typically these are interns between their junior and senior year of college.

These positive intern experiences make a difference in keeping talent in Minnesota. In addition, we're able to provide a conditional job offer to college student interns, conditional on completing their degree. These offers provide direction and security to the students and we can plan and welcome future talent that has already put in hundreds of hours in our system.

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 Fairview to foster interest amongst our state's 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.

*Laura Beeth*

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