



Minnesota Hospital Association

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*Submitted Electronically*

Chair Pelowski and Members of the House Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), we write in strong support of multiple provisions in the House Higher Education Omnibus Bill (HF 2073 - Pelowski) that support the development, recruitment and retention of Minnesota's health care workforce. Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are experiencing an unprecedented workforce crisis and significant investment is needed specifically in higher education programs to ensure access to care for all Minnesotans. As such, we strongly support the following provisions:

- **Dual Training Competency Grant (DTG) Funding.** DTG is one of the most significant sources of state workforce development funding available to hospitals and health systems, allowing organizations to train the next generation of health care professionals across many high demand patient care occupations. The new and additional funding for DTG will help the Office of Higher Education meet the demand for the program while ensuring that the successful program will continue to support health care workforce development, recruitment and retention. (Article 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 21)
- **Allied Health Technician Scholarship Program.** Allied health technicians are critical to delivering direct patient care across all of Minnesota's hospitals and health systems. There are currently over 7,000 open allied health technician positions and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) estimates that this number will continue to increase in coming years. The Allied Health Technician Scholarship program is a needed one-time investment to recruit the next generation of desperately needed allied health professionals in Minnesota. Each scholarship will total \$5,000 with the goal to award 1,000 scholarships modeled after the successful "1,000 Certified Nursing Assistant" program within the Office of Higher Education (Article 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 48; Article 2, Section 27).

In addition to the provisions above, MHA supports funding for Minnesota State's workforce development scholarships and improvements for equipment and learning environments. MHA also supports the inclusion of funding for the Addiction Medicine Graduate Medical Education Fellowship program at Hennepin County Medical Center.

MHA is thankful to Chair Pelowski, Vice Chair Wolgamott, and the Committee for its recognition of the serious nature of Minnesota's health care workforce shortage. We encourage you to continue to support programs that support the development, recruitment, and retention of Minnesota's health care workforce as this bill moves forward in the process. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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