

Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony, I apologize that I am unable to attend the hearing in person as I did in the Senate.

My name is Dr. Christopher Streib, I am a stroke specialist serving as the cerebrovascular medical director for M Health Fairview and as the stroke director for the University of Minnesota. Although I am not a native Minnesotan, I am married to one and we have lived in the Twin Cities for over 8 years where we are raising our three children. As a proud, adopted Minnesotan, I have had the opportunity and privilege to directly care for many of our fellow Minnesotans who suffer from stroke. I am here today to express my strong support for House File 2421 which adds "Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers" to the current list of stroke center designations with the Minnesota Department of Health.

In 2013, legislation was passed that granted the Minnesota Department of Health the ability to designate stroke hospitals across the state. These designations included: Acute Stroke Ready Hospitals, Primary Stroke Centers, and Comprehensive Stroke Centers. This program has been an unquestioned success: Over the last ten years, the number of Minnesotans who live within 30 minutes of a stroke designated hospital has increased from 66% to 94%. This is critical, because when treating stroke every minute matters and delays of as little as 5 minutes are associated with increased disability and death. As we say when treating stroke, "Time is Brain."

Fortunately, there have been many advances in stroke care and in 2015, endovascular thrombectomy revolutionized stroke treatment. Endovascular thrombectomy is a minimally invasive surgery that occurs within the blood vessels that can rapidly and safely remove clots causing the worst types of stroke that disproportionately cause severe disability and death. Endovascular thrombectomy provides a critical line of emergency treatment for stroke patients. The initial legislation in Minnesota allowing the Minnesota Department of Health to designate stroke centers preceded this technological advancement.

Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers are hospitals that are certified in providing endovascular thrombectomy for stroke patients. Formal recognition of the Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center

designation is essential to help Emergency Medical Services, first responders, and family members get stroke patients to the most appropriate hospital as quickly as possible. Furthermore, formal recognition of the Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center designation should motivate additional hospitals to attain this status improving the timeliness of emergency stroke care across our state. An example of a Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Center is M Health-Fairview Southdale, which treats over 1000 stroke emergencies per year. Southdale is one of the leading enrollers in the world in stroke clinical trials and offers advanced treatment available at very few locations. Additionally, Southdale performs emergency stroke thrombectomies 24-7 and has invested millions of dollars in the infrastructure required to take care of the sickest of the sick stroke patients. This capability shortens the time to treatment for many stroke patients, especially those residing in the Southeast part of the metro. Importantly, recognition of Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers is not a single health system issue: Allina's Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids and Essentia's St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth are also Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers.

I have dedicated my clinical career and research efforts to helping advance stroke care through novel therapies, emergent stroke intervention, and secondary stroke prevention. I am grateful to Representative Liebling for bringing this legislation forward. Formal recognition of Thrombectomy Capable Stroke Centers will ensure that Minnesotans receive the best, most timely stroke care when they need it most.

Thank you,



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