



March 19, 2021

House Committee on Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy
Representative Mohamud Noor
379 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Chair Noor and Members of House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy
Committee:

On behalf of Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members that make up Minnesota's health innovation and care industry, I am writing in support of the SciTech Internship Program. With nearly thousands of job openings currently available in STEM fields, programs such as this provide an important talent pipeline for employers throughout Minnesota.

In order for Minnesota to maintain its leadership position as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care, the state must significantly increase its attraction of talented people and better prepare its existing workforce to keep driving healthcare forward in a positive and impactful way. Providing real world experience for STEM students is a crucial part of addressing this issue and the SciTech Internship Program does just that.

The SciTech Internship program has placed more than 2,000 interns since it began in 2012. Throughout the life of this program, more than 80 percent of former interns have stayed in Minnesota and 97 percent of them are in STEM careers. The biotech and life sciences sectors utilize this program significantly, accounting for 20 percent of the interns placed in 2020. State support for programs that help fill the local talent pool for the health innovation and care industry – and other STEM industries – with real world talent will continue to spur innovation and economic growth throughout Minnesota.

Medical Alley Association strongly supports renewed funding of the SciTech Internship Program and urges its adoption this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association