

March 1, 2021

Representative Tina Liebling
MN House of Representatives
473 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF 256

Dear Representative Liebling and Committee Members:

On behalf of United Hospital, part of Allina Health, I am writing to express my strong support for HF 256, which would authorize the Department of Human Services to seek federal funding for recuperative health home care models, in turn providing a source of stable financial support for medical recuperative care programs serving homeless populations.

United Hospital is proud to have partnered with Catholic Charities, as well as Regions on the creation and operations of the recuperative care unit at the Higher Ground facility located in St. Paul. The creation of this program filled a critical gap in the care continuum that exists for homeless people needing additional support to treat their medical conditions after being discharged from the hospital. Through innovation and collaboration, we were able to provide a much needed service to some of the most vulnerable and medically fragile members of our community.

Recuperative care allows us to provide the right level of step-down care for those who no longer need to be in an acute care setting, but are at risk for readmission without the proper support to continue their recovery post-discharge. Having the ability to provide on-going wound care to patients who would otherwise not be able to leave the hospital because of on-going infection risk is but one great example of the bridge that recuperative care provides patients.

HF 256 creates a path to provide sustainable funding of this important care model and I urge your strong support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sara Criger
Senior Vice President, Allina Health Operations
President, Mercy and United Hospitals