

February 14, 2022

House Health Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members:

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing in opposition to HF3242 which would negatively impact our ability to provide comprehensive care to children and families across the state.

Children's Minnesota is the state's largest pediatric provider of health care, seeing over 135,000 patients last year alone. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our exceptional care teams have continued to provide high quality, patient- and family-centered care to children and families every day. Nurses are an important part of our care teams and we have never had a stronger working relationship with frontline nurses than during COVID-19. However, staffing and caring for patients is about the entire care team including licensed nurse practitioners, nurses' aides, respiratory therapists, physical therapists, pharmacists and physicians. Like other hospitals and health systems, we already have leaders in place whose role it is to manage multiple health care professionals to provide the highest level of patient outcomes. The requirements of HF3242 would be duplicative and burdensome.

Nurses and other care team members continue to compassionately serve kids and families while Children's faces unprecedented workforce issues. Rather than enact the mandates outlined in HF3242, we would welcome the opportunity to participate in conversations about increasing state investments in health care scholarships, loan forgiveness programs, retention bonuses and frontline worker pay. These approaches are better suited to address the workforce needs of hospitals and health systems in Minnesota.

Our vision at Children's Minnesota is to be every family's essential partner in raising healthier children – not only during illnesses or injuries, but throughout childhood. Our exceptional care teams, including our specialized nurses, are critical to realizing this vision. We must continue working together to find the right solutions for the unparalleled workforce issues we face.

Sincerely,



Marc H. Gorelick, MD, MSCE
President & CEO
Children's Minnesota