



Representative Baker, Co-Chair, Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee
Representative Pinto, Co-Chair, Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Co-chairs Baker and Pinto, and Members of the Committees:

On behalf of the Long Term Care Imperative, which represents over 2,000 providers across the long-term care continuum across Minnesota, we write to express our strong support for HF 3167, which comes before you with an amendment to appropriate \$500,000 in FY 2027 to Minnesota's Nursing Workforce Center, the Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence (CNEE).

The Center for Nursing Equity and Excellence serves as Minnesota's neutral, statewide convenor at the intersection of employers, education, policy, and communities - aligning partners, elevating strong existing work, and identifying and addressing gaps that no single agency can solve alone.

Minnesota's nursing workforce continues to face unprecedented strain. Persistent shortages, and increasing demand for nursing services require coordinated statewide infrastructure. HF 3167 provides exactly this by investing in the CNEE, which is uniquely positioned as our state nursing workforce center providing the strategic backbone to:

- Build statewide nursing workforce planning infrastructure grounded in data, forecasting, and policy alignment.
- Advance strategies to strengthen recruitment, retention, and advancement in nursing careers.
- Support employers and education partners with evidence-based tools, technical assistance, and scalable workforce solutions.
- Reduce fragmentation and accelerate Minnesota's ability to respond to nursing shortages.
- Leverage national partnerships to bring federal funding and best practices into Minnesota's nursing workforce ecosystem.

Our respective associations (Care Providers of Minnesota and LeadingAge Minnesota) rely on a stable and well-prepared nursing workforce. We respectfully urge the Committee to **support and advance HF 3167 with the amended \$500,000 appropriation**. This investment represents a valuable and strategic step toward strengthening Minnesota's health care workforce infrastructure. By supporting coordinated workforce development efforts, it can yield significant long-term returns for residents/patients, communities, employers, and the state's health care system while helping build a more sustainable pipeline of caregivers.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to strengthening Minnesota's health care workforce. We are ready to support this legislation and to collaborate in its implementation.

Sincerely,

Nicole Mattson, HSE, CAE, SPHR, SHRM-SCP
Vice President of Advocacy and Workforce Development, Care Providers of Minnesota

and

Dr. Kari Everson, DNP, MHA, MSN, RN, LNHA, LALD, PHN, DNS-CT, QCP
Vice President of Clinical Services, LeadingAge Minnesota