

April 1, 2025

Co-Chair Rep. Marion Rarick
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Rep. Dan Wolgamott
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chairs Rarick and Wolgamott,

CentraCare Health System is pleased to offer our support for HF 2767. The proposed increase in the Dual Training Grant would have a significant impact on our rural communities and employees looking to further their education and career potential. By increasing the grant award amount and increasing the funding available per trainee, more of our workforce will have access to critical financial support for career advancement—opportunities that are currently limited due to funding constraints.

In the four years we have received the Dual Training Grant funding, we have collaborated with 12 training partner institutions and had the capacity for 92 employees to participate within five career pathways. This partnership has impacted not only the workforce at our primary location in St. Cloud, but in our more rural locations in Greater Minnesota. The training institutions we have partnered with span a wide swath of the State from White Bear Lake to North Mankato to East Grand Forks to Hibbing and eight other locations in between. What an enormous impact our partnerships have statewide!

For our employees, this additional funding would mean reduced financial barriers to pursuing higher education and specialized training, ultimately strengthening our local workforce. Many of our staff balance work, family, and education, and this increase would provide much-needed relief, allowing them to focus on skill development without the added burden of financial strain. With the rising cost of education, this expansion ensures that more individuals who may have previously been unable to afford further schooling now have the opportunity to do so.

For our rural communities, this investment is essential in addressing workforce shortages, particularly in healthcare. By expanding access to education and training, we can develop and retain skilled professionals who are crucial to providing high-quality healthcare services close to home. This means that community members can receive the care they need, where they need it. Having trained professionals locally improves health outcomes, enhances quality of life, and strengthens the overall stability of our community.

This funding increase would be a game-changer for both our employees and our broader communities, fostering growth, stability, and long-term success. We enthusiastically support HF 2767.

Sincerely,



Kimberly Eagen
Chief Human Resources Officer
CentraCare Health System