



March 18, 2026

Dear Co-chairs Baker and Pinto, and members of the Workforce, Labor and Economic Development Committee:

On behalf of Fairview Health Services, representing over 34,000 employees including 9270 nurses, we write to express our strong support for HF 3167 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.

As hospital system, we 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 is modest relative to the scale of Minnesota's workforce challenges, with several states investing millions in nursing workforce centers, yet it will yield significant, long-term returns for patients, communities, employers, and the state's health care system.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to strengthening Minnesota's health care workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dar Spiegelberg".

Dar Spiegelberg
Chief Nursing Executive
Fairview Health Services
Dar.Spiegelberg@Fairview.org