

March 27th, 2022

Representative Mohamud Noor
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF4075

Dear Chair Noor and Committee Members,

On behalf of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, part of Allina Health, I am writing to express our strong support for HF4075 (Xiong, T.) which would increase funding for Extended Employment (EE) by \$2.285 million for FY23 and beyond for a total of \$33.8 million for FY24-25.

At Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute (CKRI) we partner with and inspire people to maximize their health and abilities to achieve lives of purpose and potential by providing a full continuum of exceptional rehabilitative and vocational rehabilitative services, including extended employment. Increasing Extended Employment funding will help providers like CKRI sustain current caseloads, and help to meet the needs of underserved and unserved populations. It will also help providers respond to current employee workforce shortages, as well as general employer costs—helping to support the state's ongoing workforce plan goals.

If Extended Employment is not adequately funded there is a risk to increasing financial barriers for rural providers to serving rural communities, the possible isolation of residents rather than further integration into communities, increased state costs for additional services, and the return of waiting lists and closure of certain services for the highest-need Minnesotans.

Thank you for your support of HF4075 and supporting people living with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Guddal
Manager, Community Services
Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, part of Allina Health