



Minnesota Hospital Association

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Submitted Electronically

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Chair Pryor and members of the House Education Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), we write in support of HF 613 (Hanson) as amended and its proposal to allow high school students to earn elective credits through employment with health care providers, including hospitals and clinics. Hospitals and health systems are urgently working to address the growing health care workforce crisis and creating new strategies to incentivize younger generations to pursue careers in health care is a needed and promising investment.

Hospitals and health systems throughout Minnesota are operating amidst an [unprecedented workforce crisis](#) that, without significant investment and support, will lead to decreased availability of timely health care services across our state. Minnesota's hospitals and health systems registered a 21% job vacancy rate in 2022 (a 250% year-over-year increase) and are in urgent need of health care workers to serve their patients and communities that they expect and deserve.

HF 613 directly promotes student interest in health care careers by offering valuable academic credit for work experience in a health care environment, including hospital or health system clinics, institutional long-term care providers, and home or community-based services and supports providers. HF 613 will also increase new and existing opportunities for secondary schools and health care organizations to establish formal training partnership programs, help students determine a career path, and ultimately increase the number of future health care providers in Minnesota.

We support HF 613 (Hanson) as amended and its meaningful investment of academic credits and work experience in support of high school students and their exploration of health care careers.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

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