



March 24, 2023

Sen. Omar Fateh
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Gene Pelowski
100 Dr. Rev. Martin King Jr. Blvd
491 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Request to fund addiction medicine fellowship

Dear Chairs Pelowski and Fateh:

Hennepin Healthcare is writing to thank you both for hearing for HF1339/SF1269 which would provide needed funding for the only addiction medicine fellowship in Minnesota. As we have shared, this fellowship is a partnership between the addiction medicine clinic at Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and the University of Minnesota Department of Psychiatry with rotations also at the Minneapolis VA medical center and Meridian Behavioral Health Care in Owatonna.

This funding request would train up to 6 physicians within two years. As the only addiction fellowship in Minnesota we are seeing the need for increased access to services and that can't happen without well-trained providers. Substance use disorder continues to be pervasive and requires continuing, comprehensive drug overdose prevention and response efforts. Funding our fellowship will train physicians to become experts in the prevention, clinical evaluation, treatment, and ongoing care of those with addiction. **Our recent fellows are running Project ECHO's, treating patients in critical populations and locations around the state and becoming teachers themselves.**

Please support this critical funding as it will be a good use of state dollars and will save lives in Minnesota. If you have any questions, you can contact Susie Emmert at susie.emmert@hcmcd.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gavin Bart, MD, PhD
Chief of Addiction Medicine
HCMC