



February 16, 2017

To: Representative Joe Schomacker and Members of the Health and Human Services Reform Committee

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), the professional association for the more than 10,000 physicians, medical residents and medical students throughout Minnesota, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for House File 1167. The MMA appreciates the work of Representative Schultz to address the needs of our health care workforce.

The MMA has made expanding Minnesota's primary care physician workforce one of its top priorities. In 2015, the MMA partnered with the University of Minnesota Medical School to examine ways to increase the number of available clinical training sites in Minnesota, and examine ways to remove barriers that exist in allowing medical students to have more meaningful experiences. Through this work, we received feedback highlighting the many challenges to both *finding* and *retaining* clinical preceptors. The limited number of clinical training sites, the time needed to serve as a clinical preceptor, and the lack of incentives that are provided to clinical preceptors, were all found to stand as barriers to ensuring our state has a sufficient pool of physicians to serve in one of their most valued roles – that of *teacher*.

The preceptor tax credit that House File 1167 would provide is in line with our efforts. Clinical preceptors serve the important role of preparing our future physician workforce. If we are to have a workforce that is ready to meet the needs of Minnesota, we need to ensure that clinical preceptors that take the time to teach are fully supported in their role.

Thank you, again, for taking the steps necessary to recognize the work done by our clinical preceptors, and for ensuring that barriers that exist in training medical students to meet our physician workforce needs are addressed.

Sincerely,

David Agerter, MD
President