



April 16, 2020

Rep. Kristin Bahner
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
525 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Rep. Bahner,

As the CEO of Hennepin Healthcare, I want to thank you for agreeing to author the bill allowing current employees on phased retirement to increase their hours and retired Hennepin Healthcare providers to return to work without penalties to their pensions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bill as written would permit retirees who are already employed or will become employed as health care workers during a peacetime emergency, such as COVID-19, to work the hours necessary to meet emergent needs of our community without the fear of suspension or reduction of their PERA pension payments.

We know current and former staff are eager and willing to meet the demands caused by this current crisis. Current projected modeling suggests that we could face a future surge which requires as many trained staff as possible. Being able to fully utilize current staff on phased retirement and bring back our trained retirees could be incredibly valuable when Covid-19 reaches its peak in Minnesota. From direct patient care to supporting every facet of hospital operations, our current staff on phased retirement and retired staff are already trained and in a great position to step in and support their community and Hennepin Healthcare as they have in the past.

I want to thank you for working with other members of the Hennepin County delegation. I know Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer and Sen. Jeff Hayden have taken the lead in the Senate to get this bill in proper order. We are thankful that Doug Anderson, Executive Director of PERA, has agreed to the legislation and said there is no financial impact to PERA resulting from this legislative proposal. We are also very thankful for the technical assistance Susan Lenczewski supplied to Hennepin County staff to get this bill drafted.

We hope this legislation will be one more tool to combat this pandemic and to do our utmost to meet the challenges that our community will face in the weeks and months ahead.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer DeCubellis", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jennifer DeCubellis
Chief Executive Officer
Hennepin Healthcare