



Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education
420 Delaware St SE, MMC 293 Mayo G255
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-625-0123
www.MMCGMEServices.org

March 16, 2015

Re: Support for HF 1447 – Recommendations of Health Care Workforce Commission

Dear Health and Human Services Reform Committee members:

On behalf of the Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education (“MMCGME”) which is a council of teaching hospitals in the Twin Cities. We believe that many of the recommendations and reforms in this bill will help to further advance health care workforce training as well as access to training opportunities throughout Minnesota. Minnesota has always been a national leader in health care workforce and we commend your efforts to continue to keep Minnesota at the top of the nation in health care. We are at a critical time in health care as the aging population contributes to workforce pressures. Many of the ideas in this bill address some of the complex challenges that Minnesota will face over the coming years as we train physicians and advanced practice providers. Included below are comments on each of the recommendations in the bill:

The Minnesota Health Care Workforce Council: We strongly support this effort and commit to devote resources to assist with the success of this effort. The members of our organization know firsthand that affecting change in health care workforce is not an undertaking that can happen with a short term task force. We believe this recommendation is an important recognition of the need to continually manage workforce issue over the long term to achieve meaningful results.

Membership of the council is critical to assure achievable recommendations are accomplished. Medical education is driven by the clinical training site and we would strongly recommend that teaching health systems are intentionally involved with this council.

Advanced Practice Primary Care and Mental Health Professions Expansion: MMCGME organizations are involved with training all types of health professionals and support this grant program to encourage and support inter-disciplinary training efforts. Care provided by all levels of practitioners is and will continue to be needed and clinical training opportunities are limited for all. MMCGME is dedicated to partner with Advanced Practice Clinicians and this expansion grant will be optimized.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

*Allina Health Services
Hennepin County Medical Center
Regions Hospital/HealthPartners, Inc.
University of Minnesota Medical School*

*Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota
Minneapolis VA Healthcare System
University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview*



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Primary Care Residency Expansion: Expansion of new training positions within existing residency programs is the best way to increase the number of health professionals in the state. We will support this grant program by committing to utilize the program and expand our residencies. The residency programs are continuous and long term efforts and we recommend that funding for this program and the one for advanced practice and mental health providers be considered for long term funding.

State funding for GME is our only opportunity for increased support due to the federal cap on the number of residency slots funded.

Health Professions Preceptor Incentive: The key limiting factor for health professionals is triggered by the willingness or lack thereof for our existing professionals to train our next generation of providers. We are encouraged by this grant program as it will give the teaching programs the ability to offer an incentive to new faculty. The opportunities for teaching sites are limited and highly competitive amongst the programs and variety of providers.

Thank you for the depth and breadth of your work and we support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Troy Taubenheim", is written over a light blue circular background.

Troy Taubenheim
Executive Director

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