

April 5, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing in support of the Hospital to Home Care Nursing Pilot Program before the House Human Services Finance Committee. The program seeks to ensure that medically fragile infants and children have access to essential nursing services in the home to facilitate timely discharge from the hospital. I am a neonatologist practicing in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area and provide in-hospital intensive care for numerous infants with complex medical needs. The needs typically stem from preterm birth and my patients often require home nursing and respiratory care due to their dependence for interventions such as mechanical ventilatory support through a medical airway and tube feedings. Due to the ongoing shortage of skilled pediatric nurses to provide this care in the home setting, these infants remain in the hospital far beyond the typical length of stay appropriate for their diagnoses, usually by a matter of weeks and sometimes by a matter of months.

Hospital care far exceeds home care in terms of cost and resource utilization. The extended care in the hospital setting puts these patients at greater risk for hospital-acquired infections, prevents caring for other patients that have more acute needs requiring hospitalization, and puts strains on the patients and their families through the seemingly endless wait for adequate nursing care in the home. This pilot program seeks to alleviate these stressors to our health care system and more importantly, to our patients and their families, by ensuring that there is an adequate supply of qualified skilled pediatric nurses to care for these vulnerable children in Minnesota. I ask for your support of this program, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our community's infants and children with complex medical needs.

In gratitude,



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