



Minnesota Hospital Association

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Submitted Electronically

Chair Pelowski, Chair Fateh, and members of the Higher Education Conference Committee:

On behalf of hospitals and health systems that we represent statewide, the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) respectfully submits to you the following comments on both the Omnibus Senate and House Higher Education budget bills (HF 2073/SF 2075). Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are experiencing an unprecedented workforce crisis and significant investment is needed specifically in higher education programs that support the development, recruitment, and retention of Minnesota's health care workforce.

MHA strongly supports the following House-only provision and encourages its adoption:

- **Allied Health Technician Scholarship Program.** Allied health technicians are critical to delivering direct patient care across all of Minnesota's hospitals and health systems. There are currently over 7,000 open allied health technician positions and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) estimates that this number will continue to increase in coming years. The Allied Health Technician Scholarship program is a needed one-time investment to recruit the next generation of desperately needed allied health professionals in Minnesota. Each scholarship will total \$5,000 with the goal to award 1,000 scholarships modeled after the successful "1,000 Certified Nursing Assistant" program within the Office of Higher Education (*House Language: Page R15, Line 14.17; Page R57 Line 50.1*).

We also encourage the committee to consider the inclusion of the House-only provision on **Addiction Medicine Graduate Medical Education Fellowship program at Hennepin County Medical Center** (*House Language: Page R14, Line 13.18*).

MHA is thankful for the inclusion of the following provisions currently in both Senate and House Omnibus bills:

- **Dual Training Competency Grant (DTG) Funding.** DTG is one of the most significant sources of state workforce development funding available to hospitals and health systems, allowing organizations to train the next generation of health care professionals across many high demand patient care occupations. The new and additional funding for DTG will help the Office of Higher Education meet the demand for the program while ensuring that it will continue to successfully support health care workforce development, recruitment, and retention. (*Page R6, Sub. 21*)
- Minnesota State's workforce development scholarships and improvements for equipment and learning environments. (*Page R21 House Language Line 18.15; Senate Language Line 19.23*)
- Minnesota State Learning Network of Minnesota Investments for equipment upgrades and industry sector programming improvements, specifically in health care. (*Page R22, House Language Line 20.4; Senate Language Line 21.27*)

In closing, MHA is grateful to Chair Pelowski and Chair Fateh for recognition of the serious nature of Minnesota's health care workforce shortage throughout the legislative session. We encourage the Conference Committee to support these programs that bolster the development, recruitment, and retention of Minnesota's health care workforce. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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