



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH and HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

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March 5, 2024

Representative Jay Xiong
Workforce Development Finance and Policy
557 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for H.F. 3194 – Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot

Dear Honorable Chair Xiong and Committee members,

On behalf of the Scott County Health and Human Services, we want to thank you for the opportunity to express our support for H.F. 3194 (Tabke) to create a Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarship Pilot for Scott County.

This pilot program will help in bridging the skills gap in Scott County while addressing the needs of the local job market. In addition, through the Shakopee Area Chamber of Commerce and Shakopee Chamber Foundation's continued efforts to help the under-served populations in the community, this program will help alleviate barriers, including financial burdens associated with post-secondary education costs, while also securing current and future career pathways for individuals to succeed.

Scott County is the only metro county where there are no post-secondary institutions. Therefore, it is critical to job seekers and employers for organizations like the Shakopee Chamber to find ways to bring tailored training programs into Scott County to help eliminate transportation costs and create local options for success.

This program, if appropriated, will have a profound and positive impact on under-served communities, the local workforce, and businesses throughout Scott County, and can become a model for other communities in the State of Minnesota. We strongly urge your support for H.F. 3194.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dahl
Health and Human Services Director
Scott County
952-496-8151