



Minnesota Hospital Association

**161 Rondo Ave., Ste. 1010
Saint Paul, MN 55103**

www.mnhospitals.org

April 3, 2025

Submitted Electronically

Chair Wolgamott, Chair Rarick, and members of the House Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), we write in strong support of HF 2767 (Wolgamott) and its proposed increase to grant amounts within the Dual Training Competency Grant (DTG) program.

DTG is one of the most effective sources of workforce development funding available in Minnesota. It's unique earn-and-learn model allows employers to "grow their own" workforce through collaborative and strategic educational partnerships that directly supports employees afford the cost of their higher education. This creates a robust learning environment that recruits and retains Minnesota's desperately needed workforce, specifically in healthcare and at hospitals and health systems.

Using the most up-to-date job vacancy data from the Department of Employment and Economic Development, MHA estimates that there are currently 25,814 open jobs across all of the eligible occupations and industries able to participate in DTG. 16,628 of those vacancies are in health care alone. As higher education costs continue to increase and subsequently enrollments are historically down, DTG is a source of success that the Legislature should seek to enhance and leverage as far as possible.

As such, the proposed increased grant amounts in HF 2767 will help student employees better afford the rising cost of higher education and expand the overall training and employment capacity at hospitals and health systems, as well as within all other industries participating in the program. Further, the increase grant amounts will draw down more employer matching dollars to directly support their employees achieve their educational goals. The increase in matching dollars will strengthen the public-private partnership required in DTG and it will further enhance the impact of the program across Minnesota.

Please support HF 2767 (Wolgamott) and the needed increase of the Dual Training Competency Grant program to support working students afford the cost of their higher education.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Sincerely,

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