

March 13, 2023

Representative Gene Pelowski
491 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF1340 (Wolgamott) Allied health technician scholarship program established, report required, and money appropriated

Dear Chair Pelowski and committee members,

On behalf of Allina Health, we would like to express our support for HF1340, which would establish a grant program for scholarships for up to 1,000 students pursuing a career in a specified health technician program by 2026.

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system with 11 hospital campuses, 65 primary care clinics, and 14 urgent care centers across the Twin Cities, and central and southern Minnesota. As a not-for-profit health system that employs over 27,000 employees, we understand and the unique and evolving needs of the modern workforce. According to a report from the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA), in 2022 hospitals across Minnesota saw an almost 250% increase in job vacancy rates over the previous year—with the overall vacancy rate rising from 6% in 2021 to about 21% in 2022. It's clear that our state's workforce is in dire need of proactive, ambitious, and innovative solutions.

The provisions included in HF1340 would be a tremendous asset for providers as we look to revive our health care workforce and workforce pipeline, as well as the students looking to enter the field. This proactive solution will help move the needle on Minnesota's workforce in a positive direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and thank you to the authors for their work on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Rath

Brigitte Rath
Vice President, Talent Acquisition
Allina Health