



*Submitted Electronically*

March 14, 2023

Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Cate Davis and I serve as the Public Policy Manager for Avera Health. I write to you on behalf of Avera Health in support of HF 2090 (Reyer) and its proposed increase in funding for the Minnesota Department of Health Summer Health Care Internship Program (SHCIP).

Through direct financial support for paid summer internships, SHCIP seeks to continue addressing health care workforce shortages by introducing secondary and postsecondary students to careers in health care in a non-classroom environment dedicated to their learning. SCHIP helps fund at least one-half the costs of employing the secondary and postsecondary summer health care interns working in hospitals, clinics, nursing facilities and home care providers. This is a valuable resource as health care organizations continue to suffer financially from increased costs, such as workforce and continuing impacts from COVID-19.

Avera Granite Falls has participated in SHCIP and has successfully employed interns over the years it has participated in the program, including last summer. Moreover, Avera Granite Falls and Avera Marshall have requests in for this year. This legislation would help support Avera Health in its dedication to maintaining the health and well-being of the rural communities we serve.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) currently estimates over 50,000 open health care jobs across our state. This is a crisis, and it is not sustainable for the care that all Minnesotans deserve. Multiple steps must be taken at the legislature to address this shortage, including increased funding for SHCIP.

We urge you and this Committee to support HF 2090 (Reyer) and increase the ability of Avera Health to foster interest amongst our states secondary and postsecondary students in pursuing a health care career and expand the pipeline for Minnesota's health care workforce.

Thank you for your consideration for my comments.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cate Davis".

Cate Davis

Public Policy Manager | Avera Health