



Ely-Bloomenson
Community Hospital

March 14, 2023

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

My name is Jodi Martin, and I serve as the Marketing and Communications Team Leader for Ely-Bloomenson Community Hospital (EBCH). I write to you on behalf of EBCH 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 healthcare workforce shortages by introducing secondary and postsecondary students to careers in healthcare in a non-classroom environment dedicated to their learning. SHCIP helps fund at least one-half the costs of employing secondary and postsecondary summer health care interns working in hospitals, clinics, nursing facilities, and home care providers. This internship is a valuable resource as healthcare organizations continue to suffer financially from increased costs, such as workforce and continuing impacts from COVID-19.

EBCH has participated in SHCIP and has employed multiple interns over the years we have participated in the program. SHCIP interns at our care facilities directly engage with the care process by working hands-on in every department throughout our facility, allowing students to explore careers in areas of critical need, including Lab Tech, Radiology Tech, Surgical Tech, and Nursing.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) currently estimates over 50,000 open healthcare jobs across our state. This is a crisis, and it is not sustainable for the care that all Minnesotans deserve. The legislature must take multiple steps 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 organizations, such as ours, to foster interest amongst Minnesota's secondary and postsecondary students in pursuing a healthcare career and expand the pipeline for Minnesota's healthcare workforce.

Thank you for your consideration for my comments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jodi Martin'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jodi Martin

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