

April 2023

Dear Chair Liebling, Chair Wiklund and Conferees,

We are writing to express our sincere appreciation for the inclusion of *HF 2749/SF 2052* in your respective omnibus bills. While violent acts committed against health care workers continue to increase, advancing safety measures in health care settings is vital to protecting staff and those they serve, and we thank you for recognizing the importance of this request.

Violence, bullying, harassment and other aggressions affect many professionals in the health care industry, with the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/physical-violence) estimating that nearly 40% of those in the field suffer physical violence at some point in their careers, and many more are threatened with verbal aggression. With this request, health care entities will be able to help offset some of the costs accrued to enact safety measures and provide staffing with the latest training needed to avert or decompress a situation. The requested funding could be applicable to infrastructure updates, the implementation of new software to track safety incidences, and increased education and training opportunities such as those typically associated with health-care-based violence intervention programs.

HF 2749/SF 2052 requests \$20 million in funding and directs it to the Minnesota Department of Health. The agency will distribute the funds via a competitive grant process similar to those it has overseen. While we sincerely appreciate the appropriations provided in both the House and Senate versions of the bill, we would respectfully ask the initial intent of the proposal to provide flexibility via a broad range of qualifying expenses, a larger maximum award amount (\$500,000 was requested) and increased total appropriation be enacted in the final language.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and for including support of this proposal in the final omnibus agreement.

