



2021

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



MEDICAL ALLEY
ASSOCIATION



January 28, 2021

Senator Scott Newman
Chair, Senate Transportation Finance and Policy
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Senate File 289 – Statewide freight network optimization tool

Chair Newman and Esteemed Committee Members,

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members that make up Minnesota's health innovation and care industry, we are writing in support of Senate File 289. This bill creates a tool that could be utilized by health innovation and care organizations to enhance and streamline their transportation network, resulting in a more stable supply chain and lower costs for patients.

2020 brought extraordinary challenges for businesses in all industries across every corner of our state. As we look to move past this pandemic and the economic effects it has brought, we must look to find ways to increase jobs and economic development to our state. Minnesota must provide a business environment that attracts investment and increases the opportunity for health technology and care organizations to succeed. This bill takes a step towards meeting that challenge.

Optimization tools are used by private organizations to streamline supply chains, determine site selection, and reduce costs. Similarly, other states – such as Iowa – are already using a similar tool to improve synergies between highway, railway, airports, and barge network, as well as utilizing it to show companies how locating in their state can reduce transportation and supply chain costs relative to other states. Minnesota can use this tool to help inform decisions around public infrastructure investments, economic development, and business attraction and expansion. Additionally, this tool could be used to strengthen the development of key industry clusters in the state, such as medical device and biotechnology, a key factor in solidifying Minnesota as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care.

Medical Alley Association strongly supports Senate File 289 and urges its inclusion as part of any finance bill moving forward this session.

Sincerely,

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



March 26, 2021

Representative Frank Hornstein
Chair, House Transportation Finance and Policy
545 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 273: Statewide freight network optimization tool

Chair Hornstein and Esteemed Committee Members,

On behalf of Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members that make up Minnesota's health innovation and care industry, we are writing in support of House File 273. This bill creates a tool that could be utilized by health innovation and care organizations to enhance and streamline their transportation network, resulting in a more stable supply chain and lower costs for patients.

2020 brought extraordinary challenges for businesses in all industries in every corner of our state. As we look to move past the pandemic and the economic effects it has brought, we must look to find ways to increase jobs and economic development to our state. Minnesota must provide a business environment that attracts investment and increases the opportunity for health technology and care organizations to succeed. This bill takes a step towards meeting that challenge.

Optimization tools are used by private organizations to streamline supply chains, determine site selection, and reduce costs. Similarly, other states – such as Iowa – are already using a similar tool to improve synergies between highway, railway, airports, and barge networks, as well as to show companies how locating there can reduce transportation and supply chain costs relative to other states. Minnesota can use this tool to help inform decisions around public infrastructure investments, economic development, and business attraction and expansion. Additionally, this tool could be used to strengthen the development of key industry clusters in the state, such as medical device and biotechnology, a key factor in solidifying Minnesota as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care.

Medical Alley Association strongly supports House File 273 and urges its inclusion as part of any finance bill moving forward this session.

Sincerely,

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



March 19, 2021

House Committee on Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy
Representative Mohamud Noor
379 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Launch Minnesota

Chair Noor and Members of House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy
Committee:

On behalf of Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members, I am writing in support of Launch Minnesota. As the association representing the health innovation and care industry across Medical Alley, we work with hundreds of innovators in the healthcare space each year, Launch MN is a tremendous asset to them, us, and entrepreneurs in all industries throughout the state. This legislation is one important step in continuing to grow Minnesota's innovative ecosystem by cultivating a collaborative environment throughout all of Minnesota, including underserved and Greater Minnesota communities.

Launch Minnesota plays a significant role in building a strong public and private partnership in our state for the innovative ecosystem. By providing direct grants to innovators, as well as education and outreach to current and future entrepreneurs, Launch Minnesota helps startups access the tools they need to be successful at every stage of development.

To maintain its leadership position, Minnesota must continue fostering an environment for innovators. This requires a renewed commitment to supporting entrepreneurs and incubators, ensuring that our state has the necessary tools to capture and retain the growth of organizations that drive our innovation economy. Launch Minnesota is one step our state can take to further Minnesota's leadership position as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care.

Medical Alley is where healthcare happens, and where entrepreneurs bring healthcare technology from ideation to implementation. We strongly support funding for Launch Minnesota. It is imperative to have a statewide collaborative effort to accelerate the growth of the startup ecosystem and amplify Minnesota as a national leader in innovation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



March 19, 2021

House Committee on Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy
Representative Mohamud Noor
379 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for the SciTech Internship Program

Chair Noor and Members of House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy
Committee:

On behalf of Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members that make up Minnesota's health innovation and care industry, I am writing in support of the SciTech Internship Program. With nearly thousands of job openings currently available in STEM fields, programs such as this provide an important talent pipeline for employers throughout Minnesota.

In order for Minnesota to maintain its leadership position as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care, the state must significantly increase its attraction of talented people and better prepare its existing workforce to keep driving healthcare forward in a positive and impactful way. Providing real world experience for STEM students is a crucial part of addressing this issue and the SciTech Internship Program does just that.

The SciTech Internship program has placed more than 2,000 interns since it began in 2012. Throughout the life of this program, more than 80 percent of former interns have stayed in Minnesota and 97 percent of them are in STEM careers. The biotech and life sciences sectors utilize this program significantly, accounting for 20 percent of the interns placed in 2020. State support for programs that help fill the local talent pool for the health innovation and care industry – and other STEM industries – with real world talent will continue to spur innovation and economic growth throughout Minnesota.

Medical Alley Association strongly supports renewed funding of the SciTech Internship Program and urges its adoption this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



February 16, 2021

Representative Ruth Richardson
Chair, House Education Policy Committee
403 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support of H.F. 469 (Moller)

Chair Richardson and Esteemed Committee Members,

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members that make up Minnesota's health innovation and care industry, we thank the committee for the opportunity to voice our support for House File 469. We support better equipping schools – teachers, staff, and students alike – to respond appropriately to seizures occurring on school grounds.

This legislation fills a critical care gap. While many schools have a standard seizure response, individuals experience seizures differently and require an individualized approach in order for care to be effective. Under this bill, schools will be required to have individualized action plans for every student with epilepsy or who are prone to seizures. These plans will be created in tandem with the student's parents and ensures at least one school employee is knowledgeable about the plan and can administer care and medication appropriately while the student is on campus. This increased transparency and preparedness more effectively guards against potential health and safety complications.

The Medical Alley Association applauds Representative Moller's efforts, as well as the efforts of our Medical Alley Association member, The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota, to increase awareness of epilepsy within the educational system and making schools a safer environment for all students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



March 8, 2021

Senator Roger Chamberlain
Chair, Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3225
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support of S.F 0654 (Lang) - School seizure training and action plan requirement

Chair Chamberlain and Esteemed Committee Members,

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association and its more than 600 members that make up Minnesota's health innovation and care industry, we thank the committee for the opportunity to voice our support for Senate File 0654. We support better equipping schools – teachers, staff, and students alike – to respond appropriately to seizures occurring on school grounds.

This legislation fills a critical care gap. While many schools have a standard seizure response, individuals experience seizures differently and require an individualized approach in order for care to be effective. Under this bill, schools will be required to have individualized action plans for every student with epilepsy or who are prone to seizures. These plans will be created in tandem with the student's parents and ensures at least one school employee is knowledgeable about the plan and can administer care and medication appropriately while the student is on campus. This increased transparency and preparedness more effectively guards against potential health and safety complications.

The Medical Alley Association applauds Senator Lang's efforts, as well as the efforts of our Medical Alley Association member, The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota, to increase awareness of epilepsy within the educational system and making schools a safer environment for all students and teachers.

Sincerely,

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



April 7, 2021

Representative Zack Stephenson
Chair, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Omnibus Commerce Finance and Policy Bill H.F. 1031

Chair Stephenson and Members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on House File 1031. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the challenges you face while crafting this legislation and we appreciate the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement. For your consideration, we would like to bring a few provisions to your attention that we have concerns with.

Creation of a Drug Affordability Board

The Medical Alley Association shares the goal of the bill author and committee members to lower the overall cost of healthcare, while increasing access and improving outcomes. We do not agree, however, that the approach taken by House File 1031, through establishing an unelected drug affordability board, will accomplish this goal. We are concerned with the fact that the bill would allow the newly established Prescription Drug Affordability Commission to unilaterally set the price for certain prescription drugs for all non-exempt public and private purchasers in the state. This bill could negatively impact the overall cost of care, by not only restricting access to drugs that can most effectively treat or cure conditions, but in providing a disincentive to continue significant expenditures for innovation and discovering new treatments.

Medical Alley Association supports policies that improve patients' outcomes while avoiding legislation that reduces biotechnology innovation ultimately impairing patients' access to life-saving drugs. The drug affordability board will set a concerning precedent for state intervention in the marketplace and inviting harmful, unintended consequences.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information or be a resource for your committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lilly Melander'.

Lilly Melander
State Policy & Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



April 6, 2021

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, House Health Finance and Policy Committee
477 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Omnibus Health Finance Bill, House File 2128

Chair Liebling and Members of the Health Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on House File 2128. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the difficult decisions facing this committee and appreciates the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement on the Health and Human Services omnibus bill with the Senate and the Governor. Below are a few provisions Medical Alley Association is pleased to support, as well as some we have concerns with.

Support

Extension of MA Coverage for Pregnant Women

The Medical Alley Association strongly supports extending postpartum coverage for Medicaid patients from 60 days to 180 days, though we strongly urge the committee to increase this to a full year. Every woman, regardless of their background or location, should have access to equal maternal health and care services. The language included in this bill takes a strong step toward improving access to maternal and infant health.

Medical Alley Association also supports education on anti-racism and implicit bias which advances the goal of providing high quality and equitable care for all mothers and babies in Minnesota. Reducing health disparities is a goal that the Medical Alley Association shares with this body, one our association and membership continues to prioritize.

Telehealth

We thank the author for including key provisions from H.F. 1412 in the Health Finance omnibus bill. Changing the definition of originating site to the location of the patient when they receive telehealth services is an important change to allow for more access to telehealth services when and where a patient needs it. Clarifying the coverage of telemonitoring is another important component of the telehealth legislation that we are pleased to see included in the omnibus bill.

In the telehealth article, we would appreciate seeing the following changes. Amending the definition of telehealth to something a bit less prescriptive, similar to the definition of telehealth in H.F. 1411. Adding language that clarifies that value-based payment arrangements are not subject to payment parity under this legislation is important to our association. Additionally, we would appreciate seeing the language removed that prevents a health carrier from providing incentives for utilizing telehealth services; while not right for everyone, telehealth can be a convenient and cost-effective option for some patients.



Concerns

Excessive Drug Price Increases

Medical Alley Association has concerns with the language from H.F. 1183 that specifically targets generic manufacturers. The association understands the overall intent of the bill author but think it is important to focus on bad actors without stifling overall production of generic pharmaceuticals.

Generic manufacturers already experience negative growth in a competitive market. This type of legislation will have a chilling effect on the growth of companies headquartered in Minnesota. These companies provide high paying jobs to hundreds of Minnesotans throughout the state and further strengthen our state's innovation and economic development. This legislation will have unintended consequences on the generic market and have a negative impact on the future cost of prescription drugs as we see more high-priced brand drugs come into the generic market. Ultimately, though well intentioned, we do not believe this legislation will improve patient access or outcomes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on H.F. 2128. Medical Alley Association looks forward to ongoing discussions on this legislation, and our staff and members stand ready to answer questions and work toward solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lilly Melander'.

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



April 7, 2021

Representative Mohamud Noor
379 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for House File 1342 Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Omnibus Bill

Chair Noor and Esteemed Committee Members:

On behalf of Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on House File 1342. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the difficult decisions facing this committee and appreciates the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement on this legislation. Below are a few provisions Medical Alley Association supports.

Support

Funding for Launch Minnesota.

Medical Alley Association appreciates the author and committee for fully funding Launch Minnesota which supports our innovative ecosystem and keep Minnesota's leadership position as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care.

Launch MN is a tremendous asset to entrepreneurs in all industries throughout the state. Funding the program is one important step in continuing to grow Minnesota's innovative ecosystem by cultivating a collaborative environment throughout all of Minnesota, including underserved and Greater Minnesota communities.

Launch Minnesota plays a significant role in building a strong public and private partnership in our state for the innovative ecosystem. By providing direct grants to innovators, as well as education and outreach to current and future entrepreneurs, Launch Minnesota helps startups access the tools they need to be successful at every stage of development. Funding Launch Minnesota will help our entrepreneurs solve tomorrow's biggest challenges and keep Minnesota's competitive edge.

Funding for Minnesota Investment Fund

This provision helps provide an environment that attracts investment and increases the opportunity for health innovation and care organizations to succeed.

The Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) has been key to growing the health innovation and care industry in Minnesota. Smiths Medical used MIF to build its new headquarters in Plymouth. Takeda leveraged it for its new Global Center of Excellence in Brooklyn Park. In Rochester, Vyriad received assistance in building a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for anti-cancer vaccines. These are just some of the success stories of MIF funded projects.



Funding for Sci Tech Internship Program

Medical Alley Association appreciates the funding for the Sci Tech Internship Program being included in the bill.

The SciTech Internship program provides real world experience for STEM students. Better preparing our future workforce to keep driving healthcare forward in a positive and impactful way. The SciTech Internship program has placed more than 2,000 interns since it began in 2012. Throughout the life of this program, more than 80 percent of former interns have stayed in Minnesota and 97 percent of them are in STEM careers. The biotech and life sciences sectors utilize this program significantly, accounting for 20 percent of the interns placed in 2020. State support for programs that help fill the local talent pool for the health innovation and care industry – and other STEM industries – with real world talent will continue to spur innovation and economic growth throughout Minnesota.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if Medical Alley Association can provide any additional information or be a resource for this committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lilly Melander'.

Lilly Melander
State Policy & Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



April 6, 2021

Representative Connie Bernardy
Chair, House Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee
563 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Omnibus Higher Education Bill H.F. 993

Chair Bernardy and Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

On behalf of Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on H.F. 993. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the challenges you face while crafting this legislation and we appreciate the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement. Below are two provision we would like to bring to your attention, both of which we are pleased to support.

Medical Alley Association strongly supports all efforts aimed at increasing the BIPOC teacher workforce. A study conducted by the Learning Policy Institute showed a positive correlation between hiring teachers of color and closing the achievement gap among students of color; however, many barriers remain around recruitment and retention that hinder the needed workforce expansion. Our association is appreciative that this bill includes provisions that work toward our shared goal of increasing BIPOC representation in our higher education workforce.

Likewise, we are grateful H.F. 993 renews funding for Regenerative Medicine Minnesota (RMM). The research and economic growth this program provides plays an important role in furthering Minnesota's reputation as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care®. To lose funding for such a cutting-edge program would negatively impact our state and future innovations. Thank you for supporting RMM and we hope to see the funding included in the final omnibus package.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please reach out if we can provide any additional information or be a resource for your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lilly Melander'.

Lilly Melander
Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



April 6, 2021

Senator David Tomassoni
Chair, Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol, Room 328
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Omnibus Higher Education Bill S.F. 975

Chair Tomassoni and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

On behalf of Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on S.F. 975. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the challenges you face while crafting this legislation and we appreciate the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement. Below are two provision we would like to bring to your attention; one we are pleased to support, the other we have concerns with.

Support

Medical Alley Association strongly supports all efforts aimed at increasing the BIPOC teacher workforce. A study conducted by the Learning Policy Institute showed a positive correlation between hiring teachers of color and closing the achievement gap among students of color; however, many barriers remain around recruitment and retention that hinder the needed workforce expansion. Our association is appreciative that this bill includes provisions that work toward our shared goal of increasing BIPOC representation in our higher education workforce.

Concern

Medical Alley Association is concerned that this omnibus bill does not renew funding for Regenerative Medicine Minnesota (RMM). The research and economic growth this program provides plays an important role in furthering Minnesota's reputation as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care®. To lose funding for such a cutting-edge program would negatively impact our state and future innovations. We strongly encourage you to reconsider funding for RMM at their requested \$4.35 million per year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information or be a resource for your committee.



Sincerely,

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



May 7, 2021

Senator Carla Nelson
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3235
95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Paul Marquart
597 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Omnibus Tax Bill, Senate File 961/House File 991

Chair Nelson, Chair Marquart, and Members of the Tax Conference Committee,

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Tax omnibus bill (S.F. 961/H.F. 991). Medical Alley Association acknowledges the difficult decisions facing this conference committee and appreciates the dedication and commitment it will take for the House, Senate, and Governor to come to an agreement on the tax bill. Below are a few provisions Medical Alley Association is pleased to support and one provision of concern.

Support

Funding for the Angel Tax Credit Program

Senate: Article 2, Sections 1-2; House: Article 2, Section 3-4

Medical Alley Association appreciates the one-time funding for the Angel Tax Credit Program (ATCP) being included in the bill.

The ATCP is vital to keeping Minnesota a destination for entrepreneurs across technology sectors. Additionally, nearly half of all states have programs similar to the ATCP – including regional competitors like Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin – making the program vital to continuing to attract investment dollars for Minnesota innovators. Dedicating funding, specifically ongoing funding, for the ATCP is one important thing the state can do to continue growing Minnesota's startup ecosystem and generate growth for the decades to come.

We urge this conference committee to provide ongoing and stable funding at \$20 million annually for this program. The need and impact of the Angel Tax Credit is continually proven, as evidenced by single-year funding running out after only five months in both 2019 and 2021. While single-year funding is a short-term fix, dedicated and consistent funding will provide maximum benefit for to our state over the years, benefitting the state at a far greater rate.

Federal Conformity

Senate: Article 1, Sections 8-9; House: Article 1, section 15

Medical Alley Association thanks both the bill authors for including conformity to federal tax law in their tax omnibus bills. Of note, conformity for PPP loans is an important step in the right direction to help Minnesota companies recover from the pandemic. Rather than charting its own course here, Minnesota should fully conform to federal tax law with regards to PPP loans and prevent many small businesses



from receiving a large tax bill at a time when they can least afford it. While we appreciate the House's inclusion of partial conformity, we strongly support the Senate's position of full conformity.

Concern

House: Article 2, Section 18

Medical Alley Association has concerns regarding elements of this tax bill that harm competitiveness in Minnesota. To maintain our state's cutting-edge for innovation, we must make Minnesota an attractive state to grow a business, not deter interest through further taxation. We encourage this conference committee to reconsider the provisions in this bill that harm Minnesota's overall competitiveness.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input on the Tax omnibus bill. Medical Alley Association stands ready to answer any questions you may have or to provide additional input on the critical tax provisions outlined above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lilly Melander'.

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



April 22, 2021

Senator Carla Nelson
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3235
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Omnibus Tax Bill, Senate File 961

Chair Nelson and Members of the Tax Committee,

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Senate File 961. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the difficult decisions facing this committee and appreciates the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement on the tax bill with the House and the Governor. Below are a few provisions Medical Alley Association is pleased to support and one provision we would like to see added during the conference committee process.

Support

Funding for the Angel Tax Credit Program

Medical Alley Association appreciates one-time funding for the Angel Tax Credit Program (ATCP) being included in the bill.

The ATCP is vital to keeping Minnesota a destination for entrepreneurs across technology sectors. Additionally, nearly half of all states have programs similar to the ATCP – including regional competitors like Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin – making the program vital to continuing to attract investment dollars for Minnesota innovators. Dedicating funding, specifically ongoing funding, for the ATCP is one important thing the state can do to continue growing Minnesota's startup ecosystem and generate growth for the decades to come.

As this bill moves forward, we urge the Senate to provide ongoing and stable funding to the Angel Tax Credit Program, of \$20 million annually, to fully unlock its benefit for entrepreneurs across the state.

Federal Conformity

Medical Alley Association thanks the bill author for including conformity to federal tax law. Of note, conformity for PPP loans is an important step in the right direction to help Minnesota companies recover from the pandemic. Rather than charting its own course here, Minnesota should fully conform to federal tax law with regards to PPP loans and prevent many small businesses from receiving a large tax bill at a time when they can least afford it; we thank the bill author for including this critical provision in the omnibus tax bill.

Concerns

No Language Improving Access to R&D Tax Credit

Medical Alley Association encourages the author and committee to consider including language from S.F. 930 that improves access to the Research and Development Tax Credit for startup and emerging companies.

The R&D tax credit is another tool Minnesota can use to attract investment and innovation. Improving access to this credit will encourage even more companies to apply for it. This credit can be a key tool for small and startup companies as they consider investing in R&D initiatives.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if Medical Alley Association can provide any additional information or be a resource for this committee.

Sincerely,



Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



April 7, 2021

Senator Michelle Benson
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Omnibus Health and Human Services Finance Bill, Senate File 2360

Chair Benson and Members of the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Senate File 2360. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the difficult decisions facing this committee and appreciates the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement on this legislation with the House and the Governor. Below are provisions Medical Alley Association is pleased to support, as well as some we have concerns with.

Support

MA Postpartum Coverage Extension

The Medical Alley Association strongly supports extending postpartum coverage for Medicaid patients from 60 days to 6 months, though we strongly urge the committee to increase this to a full year. Every woman, regardless of their background or location, should have access to equal maternal health and care services. The language included in this bill takes a strong step toward improving access to maternal and infant care.

Prescription Drug Price Transparency

Medical Alley Association supports this provision. Having worked with the bill author and other stakeholders on transparency language scheduled to take effect in 2022 we appreciate the author's continued work to make prescription drugs more affordable to the Minnesotans who need them the most.

Medical Alley Association supports policies that promote innovation and help ensure patients have access to needed medication. As the cross-sector health care association in Minnesota representing a number of industry sectors including biopharmaceuticals, we know that it is one of the most heavily regulated industries in the United States. Companies already report extensive information on costs, sales, clinical trials, and total research and development (R&D) expenses. This legislation allows the commissioner to utilize information made public by another state which in turn allows companies to avoid duplicative reporting.

Concerns

Drug Importation

Medical Alley Association supports the author's intent to make prescription drugs more affordable for patients but have concerns with this piece of legislation. As the association in Minnesota that represents several companies researching and developing the next generation of life saving cures, we are committed to improving patient outcomes and support policies aimed at improving access to those groundbreaking therapies and treatments. Importing these therapies and medications from other countries puts patients at risk because we cannot guarantee the same safety and efficacy standards the United States has would apply to imported drugs. These safety standards should be addressed at a Federal Level by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if Medical Alley Association can provide any additional information or be a resource for this committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lilly Melander". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association



April 6, 2021

Senator Eric Pratt
95 University Ave W
Minnesota Senate Bldg, Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Pratt and Esteemed Committee Members:

On behalf of Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Senate File 1098. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the difficult decisions facing this committee and appreciates the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement on this legislation. Below are a few provisions Medical Alley Association supports and few concerns.

Support

Funding for Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund

The Medical Alley Association strongly supports continued funding for both programs.

These provisions help provide an environment that attracts investment and increases the opportunity for health innovation and care organizations to succeed.

The Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) and Job Creation Fund (JCF) have been key to growing the health innovation and care industry in Minnesota. Smiths Medical used MIF to build its new headquarters in Plymouth. Takeda leveraged it for its new Global Center of Excellence in Brooklyn Park. In Rochester, Vyriad received assistance in building a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for anti-cancer vaccines. Cardiovascular Systems, Lifecore Biomedical and Cantel Medical leveraged the JCF to expand and create hundreds of jobs in Medical Alley. These are just some of the success stories of MIF and JCF funded projects. Additionally, increasing the MIF ceiling gives the state additional flexibility in tailoring awards to potential recipients, enables the state, and makes maximum awards consistent across similar programs.

Funding for Sci Tech Internship Program

Medical Alley Association appreciates the funding for the Sci Tech Internship Program being included in the bill.

The SciTech Internship program provides real world experience for STEM students. Better preparing our future workforce to keep driving healthcare forward in a positive and impactful way. The SciTech Internship program has placed more than 2,000 interns since it began in 2012. Throughout the life of this program, more than 80 percent of former interns have stayed in Minnesota and 97 percent of them are in STEM careers. The biotech and life sciences sectors utilize this program significantly, accounting for 20 percent of the interns placed in 2020. State support for programs that help fill the local talent pool for the health innovation and care industry – and other STEM industries – with real world talent will continue to spur innovation and economic growth throughout Minnesota.



Concerns

No Language supporting Launch Minnesota.

Medical Alley Association strongly urges the author and committee to include funding for Launch Minnesota to support our innovative ecosystem and keep Minnesota's leadership position as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care.

Launch MN is a tremendous asset to entrepreneurs in all industries throughout the state. Funding the program is one important step in continuing to grow Minnesota's innovative ecosystem by cultivating a collaborative environment throughout all of Minnesota, including underserved and Greater Minnesota communities.

Launch Minnesota plays a significant role in building a strong public and private partnership in our state for the innovative ecosystem. By providing direct grants to innovators, as well as education and outreach to current and future entrepreneurs, Launch Minnesota helps startups access the tools they need to be successful at every stage of development. Funding Launch Minnesota will help our entrepreneurs solve tomorrow's biggest challenges and keep Minnesota's competitive edge.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if Medical Alley Association can provide any additional information or be a resource for this committee.

Sincerely,

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association