



May 11, 2022

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

Representative Mohamud Noor
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF2860 and HF3342

Dear Chair Pratt, Chair Noor and Committee Conferees:

I am writing today to thank you for the opportunity to present the background and ask of our bill at the original committee hearings earlier this year. I appreciated the questions of both myself and the participants (Tenzin, Juan and Barbara) who brought their courage and story to the Capitol.

The importance of the work East Side is doing to prepare and equip people for the workforce is invaluable. For 100+ years we have helped people find work and earn a living. The older adults who yearn to be in the workforce today really are an asset we cannot afford to miss. They are so reliable, creative and earnest, and enrich the employers they work for. The medical field is short of talented workers and understaffed all over Minnesota. East Side hopes to expand our services to the interested men and women, by bringing the training inside our agency where we do not have to wait 6-7 months for openings.

We hope you can find it in your negotiations to include our Workforce bill. This funding is an essential contribution to Minnesota's communities. The talent in our communities is rich, and the economy is in need of this talent. We want to make sure older adults can contribute to the economy and the pipeline of medical talent includes everyone who wishes to be there.

Respectfully,

Kristine Martin, MSW