



February 3, 2021

Representative Zack Stephenson
Chair, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
509 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Concerns regarding House File 57 (Elkins) and House File 58 (Elkins)

Chair Stephenson 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 address our concerns with House Files 57 and 58. We agree with the author's overall intent to improve patient outcomes and lower healthcare costs. That said, we have concerns with the legislation's timing given that the State and Federal government have regulations in place to address transparency within hospitals and biopharmaceutical manufacturers.

As the global epicenter of health innovation and care, Minnesota is home to a world-class health technology and care ecosystem that is accelerating the evolution of healthcare by improving patient outcomes in a variety of ways. We have seen the Medical Alley community lead the fight against COVID-19. They have fundamentally shaped the world's response to the global pandemic through innovative research and cross-sector collaboration. Their work has patients living longer, healthier lives, thanks to new medical devices, gene therapies, and advances in digital health and personalized medicine. These advances were created because our members work constantly to increase access across the state and improve outcomes in more cost-effective ways.

We are concerned that H.F. 57 and H.F. 58 would add an extra layer of administrative burdens to already overwhelmed healthcare providers, as well as biopharmaceutical innovators, during an already challenging time. Further, this legislation comes on the heels of state and federal transparency regulations that went into effect last month. The new federal regulation requires all hospitals to become more transparent with the cost of a procedure. Last year, state legislation was enacted to increase price transparency for biopharmaceutical manufacturers, requiring their reporting to begin in October of this year. These recently enacted policies should be given time to take effect and be evaluated prior to additional changes being made.

The Medical Alley Association applauds Representative Elkins' efforts to lower healthcare costs for Minnesotans. We believe that the future of healthcare is driven by what happens here in Medical Alley, and discussions like these are a critical element to charting a path forward in healthcare. We urge the legislature to let current laws and regulations go into effect, then address changes, should the need arise.

Sincerely,

Lilly Melander

Lilly Melander
State Policy and Advocacy Director
Medical Alley Association