



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