



Saint Paul, MN, February 10, 2025

Dear Chair Rarick and members of the Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee,

We write today in opposition of HF10. This bill will be detrimental to the state of Minnesota's future workforce and economic competitiveness. On the one hand, the scope of the bill would impact the health and wellbeing of hard-working families in the state; and on the other hand, it would delay the sustained progress of the *Educational Attainment Goals* enacted by the legislature in 2015 (70% of Minnesotans ages 25-44 will have attained a postsecondary certificate of degree by 2025).

Per the Minnesota Office of Higher Education, "greater educational attainment correlates with increased earnings, lower unemployment, better health and other social and economic benefits." The North Promise scholarship and Minnesota Care are two critical investments that mirror these facts, and have the immense potential to lift all students and workers in the state; especially at a time when populations in Greater Minnesota are not growing at the same pace than the workforce needs of the near future in critical sectors such as health care, education, farming, among others. In addition, the contributions of noncitizens to the state of Minnesota offset those investments: in Minnesota, it has been calculated that as recent as 2022, immigrants contributed nearly \$222 million in state and local taxes (Institute of Taxation and Economic Policy, 2024).

The bill would hinder the state's economic growth, the optimal health of workers, and the core foundations for financial stability and a better quality of life for future generations of Minnesotans, whether born here or not. For these and other reasons, we respectfully advise not to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Rosa Tock
Executive Director
Rosa.Tock@state.mn.us
651-592-7487