

March 22, 2022

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

RE: SF3987

Dear Chair Pratt and Committee Members,

On behalf of Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, part of Allina Health, I am writing to express our strong support for SF3987 (Anderson, B.) which would increase funding for Extended Employment (EE) by \$2.285 million for FY23 and beyond for a total of \$33.8 million for FY24-25.

At Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute (CKRI) we partner with and inspire people to maximize their health and abilities to achieve lives of purpose and potential by providing a full continuum of exceptional rehabilitative and vocational rehabilitative services, including extended employment. Increasing Extended Employment funding will help providers like CKRI sustain current caseloads, and help to meet the needs of underserved and unserved populations. It will also help providers respond to current employee workforce shortages, as well as general employer costs—helping to support the state’s ongoing workforce plan goals.

If Extended Employment is not adequately funded there is a risk to increasing financial barriers for rural providers to serving rural communities, the possible isolation of residents rather than further integration into communities, increased state costs for additional services, and the return of waiting lists and closure of certain services for the highest-need Minnesotans.

Thank you for your support of SF 3987 and supporting people living with disabilities.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Guddal  
Manager, Community Services  
Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute, part of Allina Health