



April 6, 2021

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

Chair Pratt and Esteemed Committee Members:

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on Senate File 1098. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the difficult decisions facing this committee and appreciates the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement on this legislation. Below are a few provisions Medical Alley Association supports as well as a few concerns our association has with the bill.

### **Support**

#### **Funding for Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund**

Medical Alley Association thanks the bill author for including funding for both programs specifically at the level included in S.F 1098.

These provisions help provide an environment that attracts investment and increases the opportunity for health innovation and care organizations to succeed.

The Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF) and Job Creation Fund (JCF) have been key to growing the health innovation and care industry in Minnesota. Smiths Medical used MIF to build its new headquarters in Plymouth. Takeda leveraged it for its new Global Center of Excellence in Brooklyn Park. In Rochester, Vyriad received assistance in building a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility for anti-cancer vaccines. Cardiovascular Systems, Lifecore Biomedical and Cantel Medical leveraged the JCF to expand and create hundreds of jobs in Medical Alley. These are just some of the success stories of MIF and JCF funded projects. Additionally, increasing the MIF ceiling gives the state additional flexibility in tailoring awards to potential recipients, enables the state, and makes maximum awards consistent across similar programs.

#### **Funding for Sci Tech Internship Program**

Medical Alley Association appreciates the funding for the Sci Tech Internship Program being included in the bill.

The SciTech Internship program provides real world experience for STEM students. Better preparing our future workforce to keep driving healthcare forward in a positive and impactful way. The SciTech Internship program has placed more than 2,000 interns since it began in 2012. Throughout the life of this program, more than 80 percent of former interns have stayed in Minnesota and 97 percent of them are in STEM careers. The biotech and life sciences sectors utilize this program significantly, accounting for 20 percent of the interns placed in 2020. State support for programs that help fill the local talent



pool for the health innovation and care industry – and other STEM industries – with real world talent will continue to spur innovation and economic growth throughout Minnesota.

### **Concerns**

#### **No Language Supporting Launch Minnesota**

Medical Alley Association strongly urges the author and committee to include funding for Launch Minnesota to support our innovative ecosystem and keep Minnesota's leadership position as the Global Epicenter of Health Innovation and Care.

Launch MN is a tremendous asset to entrepreneurs in all industries throughout the state. Funding the program is one important step in continuing to grow Minnesota's innovative ecosystem by cultivating a collaborative environment throughout all of Minnesota, including underserved and Greater Minnesota communities.

Launch Minnesota plays a significant role in building a strong public and private partnership in our state for the innovative ecosystem. By providing direct grants to innovators, as well as education and outreach to current and future entrepreneurs, Launch Minnesota helps startups access the tools they need to be successful at every stage of development. Funding Launch Minnesota will help our entrepreneurs solve tomorrow's biggest challenges and keep Minnesota's competitive edge.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if Medical Alley Association can provide any additional information or be a resource for this committee.

Sincerely,

*Lilly Melander*

Lilly Melander  
State Policy and Advocacy Director  
Medical Alley Association