



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

March 14, 2023

Honorable Members of the Joint Finance Committee and the
State Building Commission

Honorable Members,

On behalf of the City of Milwaukee, we would like to convey our strong support for UW-Milwaukee's Capital Budget request of \$181M to complete the Health Sciences Renovation project. This shovel-ready project, a top priority identified in the UW System Capital Budget request, is a strategic consolidation and build-out of lab, classroom, and simulation space. It utilizes existing resources to create a state-of-the-art education space within the former Columbia St. Mary's complex acquired by UWM in 2010. It builds on more than a decade of work that has already received one round of funding from the State Legislature. This investment is critical as it will help produce the healthcare professionals needed to begin to address Wisconsin's workforce shortage. Current estimates show that within the Milwaukee metro region, there are 18,000 job openings for healthcare majors. By investing in the Health Sciences renovation, UWM can educate and graduate more nurses and healthcare workers to meet the needs of our patients and their families.

As we have seen locally, there have been continued shortages in our medical clinics and hospitals of nurses and other healthcare professionals. UWM is a state leader in offering healthcare degrees, granting healthcare related degrees to 2,093 students in the 2021-2022 school year, over half of their annual graduates. Yet, demands for statewide healthcare workforce continues to outpace current educational output of healthcare professionals. Granting UWM's Capital Budget request will allow the University to renovate space that is currently inadequate and unusable for academic uses. It will allow UWM's College of Health Sciences to consolidate its five current program locations into one modern facility, which in turn will have at least two important payoffs: 1) increase enrollment capacity by 15%, which would yield 3,000 more graduates in a 10-year period, and 2) offer a faster and more efficient path to graduation, expediting the placement of graduates into the state workforce.

The City of Milwaukee supports UWM's request to complete the new Health Science building. This project will directly benefit our residents, improve local healthcare outcomes, and provide family sustaining career paths. The State's investment in the project will provide a vital return on investment from the State through the increase in healthcare professionals. It will enrich the entire State of

March 14, 2023

Page 2

Wisconsin by sending out well educated and trained healthcare professionals statewide to fulfill desperately needed healthcare professional job openings. If we fail to fund this project at this point in time, it will only serve to worsen an already difficult statewide healthcare staffing shortage.

Thank you for your consideration of the UWM proposal, and we encourage you to give your support in funding this project.

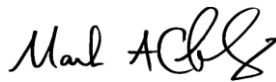
Sincerely,



Cavalier Johnson
Mayor



President José G. Pérez
Alderman, 12th District



Mark Chambers, Jr.
Alderman, 2nd District



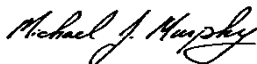
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