



**DATE: MAY 1, 2023**

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FROM: ANDREW DAVIS, VICE PRESIDENT OF GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE**

**RE: STATE FUNDING FOR UW-MILWAUKEE HEALTH SCIENCES RENOVATION PROJECT**

On behalf of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce (MMAC) I am writing to urge your favorable consideration of the funding request by UW-Milwaukee for a comprehensive renovation of UWM's health sciences facilities. This renovation is vital to make strides toward increasing UWM's student enrollment, which will result in more health sciences professionals, better health care for Wisconsin's citizens and benefits to Wisconsin's economy.

Health sciences disciplines are in high demand and expected to grow up to 25% in the coming years. UWM has the largest health sciences program in the state with over 2,000 students enrolled annually, in addition to 1,500 nursing students. Unfortunately, enrollment has plateaued due to classroom size limitations.

The limitations of current facilities preclude UWM from expanding enrollment to meet the demand of their 500 local healthcare partners. Investing \$181 million in this renovation will increase enrollment capacity by 15% and consolidate health sciences programs, labs and classrooms into a single facility. This will spur a modern interdisciplinary teaching environment that will prepare graduates to quickly adapt in the field and provide state-of-the-art health care.

With 82% of UWM graduates staying in the state of Wisconsin, the increase in enrollment would mean approximately 3,000 more employees in Wisconsin over a 10-year period working in fields such as nursing, forensic science, biomedical sciences and healthcare administration.

We are pleased to express our support of this investment and urge your approval of this funding request. Wisconsin companies need more health sciences professionals, and this project is key to meeting this need.