



Lakeland Regional Health®

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May 8, 2025

Senator Ben Albritton
150 N Central Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

Dear President Albritton:

On behalf of Lakeland Regional Health, I want to sincerely thank you for your unwavering leadership and commitment to Florida's communities as the Legislature works through the state budget. Your dedication to ensuring our state remains a place where families can thrive and businesses can grow does not go unnoticed.

As you know, Lakeland Regional Health plays an essential role in providing high-quality healthcare to residents not only in Polk County but throughout Highlands and Hardee Counties as well. Our ability to meet the growing healthcare needs of our region depends on a strong and reliable workforce, and for years, Keiser University's students have been a vital part of that workforce pipeline, especially within our allied health departments.

I am writing to express our concern regarding the proposed changes to the EASE Grant in the House budget. The metrics added would disqualify many of the students we rely on, jeopardizing our ability to fill critical healthcare positions at a time when demand continues to rise. These students are not only pursuing meaningful careers but are also committed to serving the very communities they call home.

We respectfully ask that you continue to champion full funding for EASE without restrictive new eligibility criteria. Doing so will help protect Florida's healthcare workforce pipeline and ensure that providers like Lakeland Regional Health can continue delivering the high level of care our patients deserve.

Thank you again for your leadership and steadfast support of our state's workforce needs.

Sincerely,

Scott Dimmick
Senior Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer
Lakeland Regional Health