

May 9, 2025

Dear Senator Simon,

I want to thank you for your steadfast leadership and tireless advocacy on behalf of North Florida's families, businesses, and healthcare providers. As budget negotiations continue, I appreciate the difficult work ahead and your commitment to protecting the priorities that matter most to our communities.

At Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (TMH), we serve not only the residents of Leon County but also those in surrounding rural communities across the Big Bend region. Meeting the growing demand for healthcare services in our area depends on a steady, qualified pipeline of healthcare professionals, and for years, Keiser University's students have been a key part of that pipeline.

I am reaching out to share our concern with the proposed changes to the EASE Grant in the House budget. The additional metrics under consideration would disqualify many of the very students our hospital relies on to fill essential positions, particularly in allied health and nursing. At a time when healthcare workforce shortages remain one of our greatest challenges, restricting access to financial aid for these students would have a direct, negative impact on our ability to deliver care.

We respectfully urge you to continue supporting full funding for EASE without restrictive eligibility changes. Protecting this critical resource will help ensure that hospitals like Tallahassee Memorial can maintain a strong, local workforce to care for the patients who depend on us.

Thank you again for your leadership and for always standing up for the needs of North Florida.

Sincerely,



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