

March 2, 2022

Senator Julie Rosen  
2113 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Madam Chair and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Dr. Connie White Delaney, Professor and Dean at the University of Minnesota's School of Nursing, our state's land grant institution. I lead one of the largest, top-ranked comprehensive nursing schools in the nation. I am committed to collaboration and partnership with all schools of nursing in this state. I am a life-long Midwesterner, with strong rural affinity. I would like to share why the Nurse Licensure Compact is vital to the University and all Minnesota Schools of Nursing. More importantly why it is important to our students and our graduates.

While 39 other states have supported a modern, flexible, dynamic model of nurse licensure, the State of Minnesota is among a dozen states that still must function under a 100-year-old nurse licensure model that is not flexible, adaptable, nor nimble enough to address the needs of Minnesotans, our nursing education programs, and modern health care delivery.

You and we know the facts. The Nurse Licensure Compact model:

- has been successful for almost 20 years;
- ensures safety through requiring federal criminal backgrounds checks to determine eligibility;
- supports uniform licensure requirements for registered nurses already in place nationally, all of whom are required to pass a nationally standardized licensure examination;
- requires registered nurses to abide by the nurse practice laws in the state where the patients and families they serve are physically located (importantly, that means that any nurse coming into Minnesota on a multistate license MUST practice according to Minnesota law; and
- requires participation in a national database for verification of nurse licensure discipline and practices privileges.

I have heard the statement, that nurses who would come to Minnesota under the Nurse Licensure Compact are not as safe as MN licensed nurses are. This simply is not true. An April 2022 national study reported in the Journal of Nursing Regulation Volume 13, Issue 1 (available online) that the annual discipline rate of nurses holding multistate licenses was almost one half, yes, one-half, the rate of nurses in non-Nurse License Compact states.

All nurse educators in Minnesota, and our programs, are committed to helping you address the most dire, severe nursing shortage this State has most likely ever experienced, a shortage that is well documented by data from our health delivery systems, in care environments. All graduates complete

our programs which must and do meet national standards for quality and best practices. All of our graduates are prepared to practice within the Nurse Licensure Compact. The 2022 current MN data shows us that right now over 24% of our nurses provided services to patients outside Minnesota. Our graduates are prepared to support this care. However, under the current licensure model, a nurse must get a license in those other states to provide that telehealth care because Minnesota nurses do not have a multistate license. Our largest nursing program member organization has endorsed the nurse licensure compact since 2013.

From an educational perspective, there is more to the story. Our ability to address fully the nursing shortage is hampered by availability of clinical training sites. While we work with every health system in the State, we must expand beyond the borders to secure training opportunities in other states. Because we are not a nurse licensure compact state, every professor, whether supervising one student or many, must secure a license in each state where they supervise clinical experiences for the students. The process is slow, costly, inefficient, and frankly frustrating. The shortage situation continues to be exacerbated significantly by the Pandemic.

We ask you to support the Nurse Licensure Compact, which will enable us and our nursing education programs, in partnership with our health systems, to increase access to care; leverage the safety, efficiency, and excellence of telehealth; be better prepared to meet health crises such as the pandemic; and to increase our service to military individuals and spouses, and families. Enable us, in partnership with all of our health systems, to serve patients and families beyond our state boundary.

The time is now for you to support Minnesota schools of nursing, our students, our graduates and our MN nursing workforce.

The time is now for you to support the health of our people of Minnesota with a modern, collaborative, flexible, dynamic model of nurse licensure, the Nurse Licensure Compact.

The time is now for you to support the nursing excellence already in place here in MN: all of our schools of nursing meet national educational standards and we have a national license that supports nursing practice in today's health systems.

I am asking for your support of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Connie Delaney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Connie W. Delaney, PhD, RN, FAAN, FACMI, FNAP  
Dean and Professor  
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