



Feb. 28, 2022

Dear Chair Rosen and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

While MAPE members make Minnesota a great place to live and work, MNA members help ensure all Minnesotans receive the top-notch health care for which our state has become known.

MAPE strongly opposes S.F. 2302 (Nelson), which would establish a Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), a damaging solution to a problem that does not exist. This legislation would allow licensed nurses in other states to practice in Minnesota without obtaining a new license if they don't live here, circumventing Minnesota's training and other regulatory requirements and thereby threatening patient safety and professional integrity.

The problem is not a nursing shortage. The problem is short-staffing and cost-cutting implemented by hospital CEOs who prioritize their bottom line over patient safety and staff satisfaction.

Minnesota nurses are growing tired of trying to do more with less. These unsafe and unsustainable working conditions drive nurses out of the profession, causing still higher workloads for nurses at the bedside, negatively impacting patient care, and contributing to workforce shortages.

During the pandemic, Minnesota recruited and deployed out-of-state nurses through the state's Emergency Staffing Pool. Border state reciprocity allows nurses with licenses in neighboring states to practice in Minnesota with minimal obstacles.

Implementing a Nurse Licensure Compact would only harm patients, health care workers, and eventually hospital system bottom lines. The Compact would reduce transparency and oversight of health care, taking away the power of the Legislature and Board of Nursing to set and monitor nursing standards in our state. This situation would make a consistent level of quality patient care impossible because the NLC would open the door for lower-skilled nurses, creating no guarantee of the quality of care for patients.

Ultimately, allowing an NLC is bad for Minnesota, patients expecting quality care in our health care facilities and providers giving that care. Please oppose this Compact, keeping our best nurses in Minnesota, providing the best care to your constituents across the state.

MAPE urges the Legislature to oppose the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Sincerely,

Megan Dayton
MAPE Statewide President