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February 28, 2022

Chair Julie Rosen
Minnesota State Senate Finance Committee
2113 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Rosen and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of Mayo Clinic, where I have the privilege of managing the organization's home dialysis program based in Rochester, I write in strong support of passage of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). As you consider SF 2302, I would respectfully request your support of enactment of the NLC in order to allow Minnesota-based nurses the opportunity and flexibilities to serve patients as best needed for individual care plans.

Mayo Clinic's home dialysis program based in Rochester oversees the care for patients who live within 150 miles of Rochester. In order to provide care to our patients needing dialysis, nursing staff are licensed in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. Due to Minnesota not yet participating in the NLC, staff are required to manage the varying administrative requirements by state to maintain separate licenses during their career in order to provide patient house calls and care via telemedicine. As you are aware, telemedicine has been an increasingly important modality of care. While the COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging on many fronts, the ability to provide care virtually was frequently utilized by our patients and allowed our vulnerable patients to convalesce in the comfort and safety of their homes. This allowed for continuity of patient care and supported positive patient outcomes. The utilization of virtual care for our dialysis patients increased exponentially during the pandemic and we know the demand will continue in the future.

Beyond the pandemic, if the patient chooses to travel, their current care teams may not be able to provide continuous care if travel occurs beyond a state where the nurses are licensed. This leads to patients needing to find alternative care options. By joining the NLC, dialysis staff would be able to maintain the personal care they have fostered with their patients while reducing the administrative barriers to do so.

I also manage the downtown outpatient dialysis clinic in Rochester, which is part of an eight-clinic dialysis program based in Rochester. We have sister clinics in Onalaska, Wisconsin and Decorah, Iowa. As urgent staffing needs arise, like during the various waves of the pandemic, if a member of the team is not licensed in either of our bordering states, we are unable to assist our colleagues to meet the needs of our patients. Joining the NLC would allow our teams to support each other, and minimize disruptions in care, especially during our current trying times.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions that you may have.

Respectfully,

Dennis Stacy, M.A.N., R.N.
Nephrology/Endocrine/Genomics, Department of Nursing