



FRESENIUS MEDICAL CARE

February 28, 2022

Senate Finance Committee
Room 1200, Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Rosen and Committee Members:

Fresenius operates 52 clinics and provides life-sustaining dialysis treatments to nearly 2,400 Minnesotans by over 600 caring employees. I am a registered nurse who relocated back to Minnesota about 10 years ago. My original state of license is Virginia, which is a compact state. I no longer live in Virginia and am unable to use my compact license. I currently hold active nurse licenses in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Virginia, all of which I pay licensure fees for.

Prior to Covid-19 we averaged 14 open RN positions in Minnesota at any given time. At the beginning of this year, we had 29 openings. Currently, it takes us approximately 80 days to fill an open position. Prior to Covid, we averaged 40 days to fill open positions. To summarize, we have twice as many nurse openings, and it's taking twice as long to fill them.

Dialysis nursing is a specialized field. Fresenius relies on the ability to bring in trained dialysis nurses from other states in times of critical need. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has strict requirements for registered nurses in the dialysis setting, requiring only nurses with dialysis experience to fill in during times of shortages, natural disasters, or other times when providing nursing care across state boundaries may be necessary. We operate clinics across the country and rely on moving staff around quickly to help in times of need.

The Nurse Licensure Compact helps dialysis patients by improving their access to quality and timely services. During COVID, the issue of access to care became particularly acute. When COVID surges occurred, the ability to bring in qualified out of state nurses was critical for dialysis clinics and hospitals to provide life-sustaining treatments for patients.

An additional benefit is the ability to provide telehealth services to dialysis patients. Nurses may provide these services for dialysis patients located in multiple states.

Finally, more patients are dialyzing independently at home. A Compact license allows nurses to continue to provide services if a patient travels out of state and needs nursing advice while dialyzing in a different state.

For these reasons, I ask for your support for SF 2302. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Val Riley

Val Riley, RN, BSN
1725 Legacy Parkway, Suite 200
Maplewood, MN 55109
952.679.9219, val.riley@fmc-na.com