

February 19th, 2022

Senator Paul Utke
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF2302

Dear Chair Utke and Committee Members,

On behalf of Allina Health, I am writing to express our strong support for SF2302, which would allow Minnesota to join 39 other states and territories, including all four of our neighboring states, as a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).

Allina Health is a fully integrated health system operating across central and southern Minnesota, including 11 hospitals and 90+ clinics. The current workforce crisis has impacted each and every one of those facilities. Authorizing Minnesota to join the Nurse Licensure Compact would help alleviate some of the challenges Allina Health has experienced recruiting nurses over the past few years. Allowing nurses who hold valid licenses, and are in good standing in their home state, to bypass the duplicative process of applying for licensure in the state of Minnesota will help streamline the onboarding process, and will get caring and qualified nurses into care teams faster.

In a recent survey from the Minnesota Board of Nursing, nurses across the state made it clear that they supported joining the Nurse Licensure Compact. Out of the 23,979 nurses that responded to the survey, 78% indicated that they were in favor of Minnesota joining the NLC. Only 8.3% of respondents said they opposed joining the compact.

There is not a simple solution to solving the health care workforce crisis in Minnesota; it's going to take a number of practical and pragmatic solutions. We believe that SF2302, allowing Minnesota to join the Nurse Licensure Compact, is an important part of the solution to address these workforce challenges, and will ultimately lead to better patient care and accessibility across the state.

Thank you for your support of this much needed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "MariBeth Olson".

MariBeth Olson
Vice President of Patient Care, United Hospital
Allina Health