

Oppose SF 2302, Nurse Licensure Compact

Elder Voice Family Advocates was established with the sole mission to assure safe, quality care of elders. We are painfully aware of how important the oversight of the MN Board on Nursing and the MN Department of Health is to assure safe, quality care.

This well intended proposal increases the risk of serious harm to long-term care residents who are dependent on well educated and qualified RNs and LPNs, which our Minnesota regulations are designed to assure. The residents of congregate care facilities have suffered disproportionately during pandemic but recruiting out-of state nurses with limited familiarity of MN law and regulations is a dangerous experiment.

SF 2302 would allow Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses who are from states currently not part of the MN Board of Nursing Compacts, to avoid our licensing and renewal requirements and stringent oversight. Nurses practicing in ignorance of our laws and with limited state accountability and transparency that our regulations assure put our loved ones at enormous risk.

We are concerned with the RN, LPN, CNA and unlicensed caregiver staffing shortages but this is not the solution. Fair wage, benefits and increased reimbursement rates are long-term solutions that have the potential to substantially improve the care of our loved ones and support our invaluable MN nurses. Please set this proposal aside and focus on the core issues of nurse staffing issues.

Thank you for your consideration of our request to vote no on SF 2302.