

MN Nurse Licensure Compact Act

Testimony from The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society

Good Afternoon, Mr. Chair,

I want to thank you and the committee members for the opportunity to speak. My name is Rochelle Rindels, I am the Vice President of Nursing & Clinical Services for the Good Samaritan Society. We currently serve 22 states with 158 skilled nursing facilities and in the state of MN we care for 2629 residents within our facilities every day. We also employ nearly 3000 nurses across our footprint.

Living and working in Sioux Falls, SD, I work with and direct nurses from many different states including our neighbors and colleagues in MN. The pandemic has made partnering and working across state lines ever more essential as COVID-19 outbreaks call for immediate staffing changes in all types of healthcare settings.

To address the need for immediate staffing and continuation of care for elderly residents, the Good Samaritan Society created an Enterprise Rapid Response Pool of RNs, LPNs, and CNAs.

- These nurses are assigned to crisis locations that are experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak or other crisis contributing to staffing needs.
- The Rapid Response Nurses are discharged to a location within 48 hours.
- Requirement of a single-state nursing license in MN creates an inability to provide adequate care to elderly MN residents as Rapid Response nurses are delayed due to licensure requirements.
- We are able to immediately place these nurses in 18 other states across the organization.

The COVID-19 pandemic created a staffing pandemic for the healthcare industry, which long-term and senior care providers are not immune to. Today the Good Samaritan Society utilizes nearly 700 nursing agency positions across our footprint, around 13% of our nursing workforce.

- Requirement of a single-state nursing license in MN creates a barrier to providing necessary care to frail, elderly residents across MN.
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- Narrowing the pool of available agency nurses, leads to an inability to partner with MN hospitals and contribute to the decompression and throughput of acute care patients needing a skilled level of care.
- Recently, The Long-Term Care Imperative of MN produced a 2022 workforce study stating 78% of nursing facilities are restricting admissions due to the staffing crisis; and that 20% of RN positions across the state remain unfilled.

As a long-term care provider in multiple states, I know our residents don't see the state on the nursing license, they see the compassionate face of their nurse. Care should not be delayed due to single-state licensure requirements. Please support and pass S.F. 2302, and protect care for our residents and provide staffing relief for our frontline workers.

