



February 17, 2022

Senator Paul Utke  
3403 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Utke and members of the Minnesota Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation to express our support for SF2302, the Nurse Licensure Compact legislation, and to also thank Senator Carla Nelson for authoring this needed initiative.

Hazelden Betty Ford, established in 1949 in Center City, Minnesota, is the nation's largest nonprofit provider of comprehensive inpatient and outpatient substance use and mental health treatment for adults and youth. We provide lifesaving treatment to people across the country, both through telemedicine and on-site at our 17 locations, including those in Minnesota. The Foundation also encompasses a graduate school of addiction studies, a publishing division, an addiction research center, recovery advocacy and thought leadership, professional and medical education programs, school-based prevention resources and a specialized program for children who grow up in families with addiction.

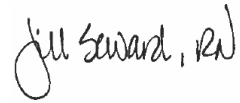
As a national system of care, the stability and availability of our health care workforce is integral to our ability to perform the lifesaving work we do every day. As overdose deaths are at an all-time high and the need for help related to addiction and mental health continues to grow, our ability to respond to the growing demand has been made even more challenging with our current staffing shortage crisis, including a critical shortages of nurses.

With the Nurse Licensure Compact, access to patient care would be improved by allowing our nurses in other Compact states to practice across state lines. Passage of the Compact would allow us immediate flexibility in staffing we desperately need to ensure we have nurses in the places they are needed most, allowing us to keep our doors open to patients who need our help in Minnesota. In addition and in the longer term, the Compact would support recruitment of new nurses to our Minnesota programs as well as create retention pathways by expanding access to professional advancement for our nursing staff across our health system.

As Hazelden Betty Ford's Chief Nursing Officer, I know that the Nursing Licensure Compact will not alone solve our nursing shortage problem. That said, the Compact is a critical tool we need as we and other providers are asked to care for more Minnesotans in crisis than ever before.

Thank you for your consideration and again, please support the passage of SF2302.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Seward, RN". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Seward, RN

Chief Nursing Officer