



Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota Senate
February 21, 2022
Senate File 2302 – Nurse Licensure Compact

Dear Committee Members:

The Minnesota Business Partnership and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce represent employers of more than a half million Minnesotans in all sectors in every part of the state. Accessible and affordable health care is extremely important to our members and their employees. Our nurses are key players in Minnesota's long tradition of world-class health care providers and our hospitals consistently ranking at the top for health care quality. We submit this letter to express our strong support of Senate File 2302, entering Minnesota into the Nurse Licensure Compact.

The pandemic has highlighted the need to allow for greater staffing flexibility in times of crisis so health care practitioners can go where they are needed without a time-consuming credentialing process or an emergency government waiver. Thirty-nine other states have entered the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), allowing nurses to hold a multi-state license and practice compact states. The NLC has been in operation for nearly 20 years and in that time has been proven as a safe and effective tool for efficient staffing flexibility.

As with many other sectors of the economy, health care is facing a critical staffing shortage that shows few signs of letting up. Entering the compact will make recruitment of nurses from other states easier because they will not have to obtain a unique license to practice in Minnesota.

Joining the NLC will improve access to care. Many of our hospital systems operate in multiple states and each of our neighboring states are members of the compact. The NLC will enhance access to telehealth services by providing access to immediate telehealth nursing services and allows better continuing care for patients throughout Minnesota who may have had medical procedures in neighboring states.

The NLC reduces regulatory and continuing education burdens on nurses. They will no longer be required to acquire and maintain multiple state licenses and nurses will still be allowed to hold a Minnesota license. Safeguards included in the current licensing process will remain and the compact requires federal criminal background checks.

Minnesota already participates in other licensing or credentialing compacts. Notably, Minnesota joined the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) in 2015. The IMLC allows physicians similar licensing

reciprocity as the NLC would provide to nurses. Additionally, just last session the state entered the PSYPACT allowing psychologists to practice across state lines.

Thank you for your consideration on this important bill. Entering the Nurse Licensure Compact will streamline regulatory burdens for nurses and their employers while improving many aspects of the health care experience for Minnesota families.

Sincerely,



Dan Dwight
Health Policy Director
Minnesota Business Partnership



Bentley Graves
Director, Health Care and Transportation Policy
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce