



Minnesota Hospital Association

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Senator Paul J. Utke
Chair, Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3403
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: SF 2302 The Nurse Licensure Compact

Dear Chairman Utke,

As members of the Minnesota Hospital Association's Chief Nursing Officers Group, we are writing to you in strong support of SF 2302 to adopt the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Hospitals and health care systems are dealing with workforce shortages and a historic number of open positions throughout the health care sector, including registered nurses (RNs) and licensed practical nurses (LPNs). While workforce shortages existed before the pandemic, the problem has elevated to crisis levels.

There are currently 39 member states and territories participating in the NLC. The compact allows RNs and LPNs in good standing to practice in other member states without having to obtain an additional license. Joining the compact would streamline recruiting processes, increase access to care, reduce costs while protecting patient safety, and support flexible care models and modern health care delivery.

The Minnesota Board of Nursing supports the compact and would still maintain the authority to regulate nursing within the state. In a recent survey, more than 78% of the nurse respondents supported Minnesota joining the compact. There is no evidence that adopting the NLC would adversely affect Minnesota nurses or patient care, given that all nurses must pass the same National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). In addition, the compact will improve care coordination and allow Minnesota nurses to provide in-person and telehealth services for their patients who travel or reside in other states to maintain continuity of care which is so important for patients.

For these reasons, as members of the Minnesota Hospital Association's Chief Nursing Officers Group, we strongly support the passage of SF 2302 adding Minnesota to the growing list of states joining the NLC.

Joining the NLC is an overdue advancement of Minnesota's competitive ability to recruit nurses across the nation and increase the capacity to provide the care Minnesotans need.

Sincerely,

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