



February 21, 2022

Senator Paul J. Utke, Chair
Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Division
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Utke and Committee Members,

The Minnesota AFL-CIO is a labor federation made up of more than 1,000 affiliate unions, representing more than 300,000 working people throughout the state. We are writing today to voice our opposition to the legislation (SF 2302/HF2184) that would move Minnesota into the National Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).

In the 20 years the Nurse Licensure Compact has been enacted, the NLC has been shown to have no effect on labor force participation, employment levels, hours worked, earnings, and likelihood of working across state lines.

Additionally, evidence shows that the NLC would have little to no impact on assisting with the nurse staffing crisis Minnesota is currently experiencing. Across the country, some of the states with the worst nurse staffing shortages right now, are currently members of the NLC. The NLC has done little to stem their staffing crisis, and it would do little to stem ours.

Instead, we urge you to look to the workers you are trying to help. Nurses are actively advocating for more of a voice in their patient's care, better staffing levels which would incentive nurses to stay at the bedside and other retention incentives that would make their work easier to sustain and keep them where they want to be, at the patient's bedside.

The Minnesota AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions urge you to vote against SF 2302/HF2184 and any other legislation that includes the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Sincerely,

Bernie Burnham
President

Bradley Lehto
Secretary-Treasurer

BB/BL:pm
opeiu12/afl-cio