February 19, 2022

Chair Utke and Members of the Committee,

My name is Priyanka Roy and I have been an RN for just over a year. I have been stretched and worked to my limit and worry how I will continue on in this profession I've loved. And unfortunately, I hear this from my colleagues, especially new nurses like myself.

Despite the fact that Minnesota has an abundance of well-trained nurses to meet the needs in the hospitals, the Nurse Licensure Compact would outsource care to nurses with less training from other states. The Compact will eliminate Minnesota's Legislature and the Minnesota Board of Nursing of the authority to establish and monitor nursing standards in our state, handing them over to an interstate commission that could make rules affecting my practice and the patients I care for. I am also deeply concerned that the Nurse Licensure Compact would outsource treatment from our local hospitals' bedside nurses to computerized corporate healthcare systems located outside of our communities.

Before the pandemic, the nursing workforce was already overburdened. Over the years, hospitals have been reducing costs by gradually reducing staffing. Nurses were already overworked to begin with. But, because hospitals continued to overburden nurses with more patients than they could safely care for, the epidemic hit us twice as hard. Safe staffing is seen as a drag on profit margin to hospitals rather than a requirement for a compassionate, well-prepared, patient-centered health care system. There is no nursing shortage in Minnesota-nurses are leaving the bedside because no one can continue working to the point of exhaustion in such unsafe conditions.

Our patients deserve safe and quality care when they are in the hospital. I'm proud of obtaining my Minnesota license due to our exceptional standards. I'm concerned that the nurse licensure compact could create inconsistent care standards for hospital patients. We do not need the nurse licensure compact. We need safe staffing and safe working conditions for our nurses.

Sincerely,
Priyanka Roy, RN