



SEIU Healthcare
United for Quality Care

February 21, 2022

Chair Paul Utke
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3403
St. Paul, MN 55155

Jamie Gulley
President

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Executive Vice President

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Executive Vice President

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Dear Chair Utke:

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota represents over a thousand registered and licensed practical nurses in Minnesota. They work in a variety of settings including clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes. All are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. We write to oppose SF 2302, which would make Minnesota a member of Nurse Licensure Compact.

We have health care workforce crisis, not just because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but because we have failed to treat nurses as professionals, essential to the health of our community. Minnesota has always promoted high standards of training and regulations. This has contributed to our reputation as a health care leader and a “healthy places to live”. Our high standards have also produced a larger than average nursing workforce. Minnesota has 15.78 nurses per thousand residents, well above the national average of 12.06. The Compact endangers our high standards, our good reputation, and our enlarged workforce.

We are also concerned the Compact will make it more difficult to raise safety concerns, not only for nurses, but also for patients, as it makes the process for filing complaints more confusing. Moreover, we believe Minnesota regulators would treat the safety concerns of Minnesota patients more seriously than the regulators of another state would treat the same complaints from Minnesota patients against a nurse who resided in their own state.

On behalf of the nurses represented by SEIU Healthcare Minnesota, we urge the Legislature to oppose the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Sincerely,

Jamie Gulley
President

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