

February 21, 2022

The Honorable Paul J. Utke
Chairman, Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
3403 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairman Utke,

On behalf of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), a non-profit organization representing the board of nursing from each state, I am writing to encourage passage of Senate File 2302. Senate File 2302 authorizes Minnesota to join 39 other states/territories and enter the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). The NLC allows registered nurses and licensed practical nurses to have one multistate license in their primary state of residence and practice in other compact states without needing to obtain additional licenses.

The NLC legislation contains 11 licensure requirements that every applicant must meet before obtaining a multistate license, including graduating from a board approved nursing school, passing the NCLEX, and also completing an FBI criminal background check. These standardized requirements for a multistate license ensure states that compact nurses practicing in their state have met a uniform set of standards to practice.

The NLC has been successful over the last 22 years because nurse licensure requirements across the United States are consistent. Further, only 0.2% of all nurses are disciplined annually and according to a recent study, there is no measurable difference in discipline between nurses who hold a multistate license and nurses who hold a single-state license.

As we are now two years into the COVID-19 health pandemic, it is clear that modern healthcare delivery requires that nursing care be fluid across state lines. Healthcare staffing continues to be strained. We need a mobile nurse workforce to immediately cover gaps in care, both during the pandemic and beyond.

Under the NLC, there is no need to wait for an executive order exempting healthcare licensing since compact nurses are able to cross state lines and assist immediately. The NLC streamlines the licensure process so that nurses, who are previously vetted to practice, can be as mobile as possible creating better access to care for patients.

The NLC has been in operation for over 20 years. It increases access to health care, protects patient safety, reduces costs and supports state-of-the-art health care delivery. Please support the passage of the Nurse Licensure Compact in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Fotsch', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rebecca Fotsch
Director, State Government & Legislative Affairs
NCSBN