



May 12, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Senator John Marty, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

With over 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the leading organization representing professional nursing across Minnesota. As leaders in labor and healthcare, we are a voice for hospital nurses around the state on issues related to the health and well-being of the public. Our members work tirelessly at the bedside, and as advocates, to provide, protect, and expand access to quality, affordable patient care.

We want to thank Senator Wiklund for her work on this legislation, H.F. 402 as amended (and previously S.F. 1681), which establishes new consumer protections and strengthens antitrust regulations to protect patients, communities, and healthcare workers from the harms caused by the ongoing consolidation of the healthcare delivery system. Data shows that consolidation hits rural and lower-income communities the hardest, where quality healthcare access and affordability have been ongoing problems that existing federal and state regulations have proven inadequate in properly addressing. Healthcare mergers and transactions lead to services being reduced, closures for hospitals and clinics, job losses in rural and urban communities, and assets being stripped from the state healthcare system due to a lack of transparency surrounding charitable assets and how those assets can be used or transferred. Healthcare consolidation continues to make millions for wealthy healthcare executives while exasperating problems related to patient care, access in rural and lower-income communities, and the healthcare workforce.

Among others components of H.F. 402, MNA supports provisions in the bill that:

- Establish new consumer protections, wisely leveraging existing expertise, authorities, and duties across both the Office of the Attorney General as well as the Department of Health, to define a clearer framework for reviewing healthcare mergers and transactions – building off of existing antitrust case law, federal regulations, and best practices to solidify a process that will work for Minnesota’s healthcare system;
- Explicitly prohibits transactions creating a monopoly or monopsony;

345 Randolph Avenue
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 651.414.2800
800.536.4662
Fax: 651.695.7000
Email: mnnurses@mnnurses.org
Web: www.mnnurses.org



AFL-CIO

- Prohibits CEOs, board members, or other healthcare executives from personally profiting off mergers or other “nonprofit” healthcare transactions – an obvious significant driver of consolidation; and
- Extends the moratorium on HMO conversion, while requiring the state to also do a study to hopefully inform future, long-term decisions.

MNA supports this bill because nurses and other healthcare workers continue to be asked to do more and more with less and less, meanwhile healthcare executives continue to rake in record salaries and bonuses. We need to ensure that our healthcare system puts patients over profits by closing some of the loopholes that currently make mergers and transactions not only an extremely profitable business for a select few executives, but also one of the greatest threats to ensuring quality patient care for all Minnesotans in the future. H.F. 402, as amended, will help us meet the moment and better address this ongoing crisis in healthcare.

Shannon Cunningham
Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association