



Thursday, March 2, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Senator Erin Murphy, Chair
Committee on State and Local Government and Veterans
Minnesota State Senate Building,
95 University Ave W.,
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Murphy and Members of the Committee,

With over 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest organization representing professional nursing across Minnesota. As leaders in healthcare, we are a voice for hospital nurses across the state on issues related to the health and wellness of our communities.

Hospital CEOs continue to close hospitals, pay millions to themselves and other top executives, and then deny nurses and patients the resources needed to ensure safe staffing and quality patient care at the bedside. They have repeatedly made clear their priorities are firmly focused on corporate expansion and their own bottom lines. Nurses have one concern: to ensure quality care for our patients. That starts at the bedside and extends to our communities. MNA is opposed to the ongoing corporatization and consolidation of the healthcare industry, which continues to lead to services being reduced, higher prices for patients, and the closure of hospitals and clinics – all in the pursuit of greater profits (despite most health systems being “nonprofit” organizations).

Federal regulations and oversight prove insufficient in halting increased consolidation of the healthcare industry here in our state despite the dangers posed. MNA supports increased investments in the oversight and regulation of corporate mergers to better address our state’s needs. As such, MNA supports the proposed budget for the Office of the Attorney General because it would empower the Attorney General to work with other states to address complex multi-state antitrust cases, which would include many healthcare system mergers, and provides the funding needed to more adequately staff antitrust investigations and related work. With the impacts of ongoing consolidation adding to the pressures facing Minnesotans, increased protections for our communities are vitally needed.

We hope members of the committee will support strengthening patient and consumer protections, and protecting the health of Minnesotans, by supporting the proposed budget for the Office of the Attorney General.

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