



March 17, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

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

Chair Murphy and Members of the 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 health care, we are a voice for hospital nurses around the state on issues related to the health and well-being of the public.

We want to thank the author of S.F. 1681, Senator Wiklund, and the co-authors of this legislation for preventing legislation that would prevent massive, profit-driven, out-of-state conglomerates from taking over the state healthcare system. There are many related and additional provisions in this bill that we support, including:

- Establishing regulations to ensure transactions will not lead to negative healthcare impacts as it relates to affordability, accessibility, and quality of healthcare services – including safeguards against consolidation that would lead to greater inequities or reduced services for rural communities; and
- Language that would explicitly prohibit transactions that would create a monopoly or monopsony;
- Prohibiting CEOs, board members, or other healthcare entity executives from personally profiting off a transaction;
- Extending the moratorium on HMO conversion.

While MNA supports this legislation, we would also encourage the author and Legislature to consider amendments to strengthen this bill by:

- Requiring entities involved in a transaction to respect collective bargaining, including honoring existing bargaining units and contracts already in place;
- More explicitly protecting access to reproductive healthcare services, including abortion services, as well as gender-affirming care.

Minnesota statutes need updating to meet the current moment, and ongoing crisis, in healthcare. As such, MNA strongly supports S.F. 1681.

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