



May 10, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety 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.

We want to thank Chair Wiklund for authoring S.F. 1681, as amended, which would establish new regulations to prevent further corporatization and consolidation of the healthcare delivery system – which negatively impacts the accessibility and affordability of healthcare services, particularly in rural and lower-income communities, and often leads to services being reduced or the closure of hospitals and clinics. Among other provisions, MNA supports this bill because it:

- Establishes new consumer protections and guardrails through provisions that wisely leverages the authorities and expertise of both the Office of the Attorney General as well as the Minnesota Department of Health;
- Explicitly prohibits transactions creating a monopoly or monopsony;
- Prohibits CEOs, board members, or other healthcare executives from personally profiting off mergers or other healthcare transactions; and
- Extends the moratorium on HMO conversion and requires the state to develop data-informed recommendations related to HMO conversion.

MNA urges the passage of this bill because nurses and other healthcare workers continue to be asked to do more and more with less and less, meanwhile healthcare executives rake in record salaries and bonuses. And as consumers and taxpayers, more transparency is needed over charitable assets, particularly when these publicly supported systems are largely delivered through nonprofit providers established to serve the public good. S.F. 1681, as amended with the language of H.F. 402, will help us meet the moment and better address this ongoing crisis in healthcare.

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