



March 6, 2024

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Chair Carlson  
Senate Elections Finance and Policy  
Minnesota Senate Building  
St Paul, MN 55155

Chair Nelson and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is a grassroots union representing more than 22,000 registered nurses in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. We are a leader in nursing, labor, health care, and social justice communities and a voice for nurses and patients on issues relating to the professional, economic, and general well-being of nurses and in promoting the health and well-being of the public.

MNA writes in support of SF3994, the Minnesota Voting Rights Act providing critical voting protections to voters of color and other minority groups. We believe an inclusive, functioning, multiracial democracy paves the way for sound healthcare and public health policies and decisions. Black voters and other voters of color across the state and country face voter discrimination, intimidation, and suppression at polling locations, and this severely impacts their ability to fully participate in our democracy.

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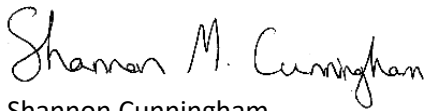


AFL-CIO

In Minnesota, significant racial disparities exist in voter registration and turnout: white Minnesotans register and turn out to vote at rates that are 6-16% higher than Asian, Hispanic, and Black Minnesotans. While many factors contribute to likelihood to register or to vote, it is essential that voters are protected from discriminatory voting practices or policies that exacerbate these inequities.

The Minnesota Voting Rights Act would restore and clarify protections against discriminatory voting policies and voter dilution. Protecting the right and freedom to vote should be a top priority for the state, as it is in California, Washington, Oregon, Virginia, and New York. Now is the time for Minnesota to work to remove harmful voting policies and ensure that we continue to be a leader in both democratic and healthcare policies.

MNA strives to uphold and advance excellence, integrity, and autonomy in the practice of nursing – we know that a healthy, inclusive democracy is an integral prerequisite for a healthy society. We strongly support SF3994 and urge members of the Senate Elections committee to vote in support of this legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon M. Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shannon Cunningham

Director of Governmental and Community Relations

Minnesota Nurses Association