## MINNESOTA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

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March 4, 2024

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee 2107 Minnesota Senate Building St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for SF 4076

The Minnesota Board of Social Work writes in support of SF 4076. The Board's mission is protecting the public through licensing and regulation of the social work profession. The Board has over 17,000 licensees with 4 different license types.

The Board of Social Work supports SF 4076 for the following reasons:

- Allows eligible social workers the mobility to practice with a multistate license in other jurisdictions without the requirement to complete duplicative licensing processes
- Reduces the financial barriers of duplicative licensing processes
- Increases access for consumers to obtain social work services, especially for individuals living in underserved parts of the state and/or seeking culturally specific services
- Supports continuity of care if consumer moves to another state that is also a part of the compact
- Expands the availability of telehealth services
- Supports license mobility for active-duty military members and their spouses and quicker access to employment in member states
- Provides access to compliance information on licensees, investigations, and discipline

The Board of Social Work supports SF 4076 and asks the committee members to support the Social Work Licensing Compact. The proposed changes protect the public and reduce duplicative licensing process and financial barriers for social workers to practice in other jurisdiction.

Thank-you for considering SF 4076. If you have any questions, please call or email me at <u>youa.yang@state.mn.us</u> or 612-617-2110.

Sincerely,

your yang

Youa Yang, LICSW Executive Director Minnesota Board of Social Work