



Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair  
Health and Human Services Committee  
March 6, 2024

Chair Wiklund and Health and Human Services Committee Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter (NASW-MN) and the MN Coalition of Licensed Social Workers (Coalition), we are writing in support of SF4076, a bill that will allow MN to join the social work licensure compact.

NASW-MN is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in our state and the Coalition includes the MN Association of Black Social Workers, the MN Hmong Social Workers' Coalition, the MN Nursing Home Social Workers Association, the MN School Social Workers Association, and the MN Society for Clinical Social Work. Collectively we represent over 3,000 social workers. Our members work in a wide variety of settings, including direct practice (clinical and non-clinical) and macro practice. Should this bill pass, social workers from around the state and in many settings will utilize the benefits a compact can offer.

Currently social workers must maintain a separate license for each state they wish to practice. Requirements include taking multiple exams and managing extra continuing education requirements, a burdensome expense for social workers. For example, the cost to take the Association of Social Work Board exam is \$230-260 each time, and social workers report 40 hours of continuing education in each license renewal cycle to the MN Board of Social Work. A compact will allow MN social workers to focus on MN licensing regulations.

Despite the time and expense required to maintain multiple licenses, many social workers currently do this for many reasons. For example, social workers who live near the border have found that it eases complications in the referral process for patients who cross state lines for services. Others, especially social workers with a clinical license, use multiple licenses so they can offer telehealth services more broadly and more specifically, continue the care for their clients who are relocating either temporarily or permanently.

This bill makes it easier for social workers to offer services, and it allows clients to access those services without increasing the risk to the public. States participating in the compact must meet the licensing standards established in the compact, and out-of-state social workers practicing in MN are subject to the licensing authority of the Board of Social Work.

We appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Coalition of Licensed Social Workers Representatives,

Karen Goodenough, PhD, LGSW, National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter

Renita Wilson, MSW, LICSW, MN Association of Black Social Workers

Kao Nou Moua, PhD, MSW, LGSW, MN Hmong Social Workers' Coalition,

Joanna Genovese-Cairns, MSW, LISW, MN Nursing Home Social Workers Association  
Julie Campanelli, LICSW, Ed.S, MN School Social Workers Association  
James Stoltz, LICSW, LADC, MN Society for Clinical Social Work