



March 26, 2018

Representative Joe Schomacker
State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5505

Dear Representative Schomacker:

On behalf of Allina Health, we would like to offer our strong support for HF 3848/4169, a bill to allow Minnesota to join the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact, and thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Allina Health is an integrated care delivery system that serves one third of all Minnesotans on their path to health. Of our 27,000 employees, over 8,000 are RN and LPN nurses who help our patients across the care continuum from family medicine to advanced specialty care, including cancer, rehabilitation, heart disease and stroke, and maternal health.

By participating in the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact, our nurses could practice to the top of their license, meet the expectations of today's mobile patients, and reduce the burdens associated with maintaining separate licenses in multiple states.

- Nurses want to help patients, regardless of where they are located when they need care. They have established relationships with our patients, and holding a multistate license would enable nurses to provide continuity of care and/or telemedicine if a patient travels out of the state for work or vacation.
- Joining the enhanced NLC would help our specialty care nurses continue to monitor and assess patients who are managing a complex illness like cancer, transplant, or cardiac care when the patient relocates for the winter.
- Many of our nurses currently hold licenses in more than one state, which can require additional fees, paperwork, and continuing education requirements, which have not been shown to positively impact the practice of nursing.

In 2017, the Minnesota Board of Nursing released findings from a survey of licensed nurses and their thoughts about Minnesota joining the Nurse Licensure Compact. The survey found that nearly 40% of respondents reported providing nursing services across a state border in the previous 24 months, and that more than 80% of respondents were in favor of joining the NLC. These findings are consistent with feedback from our nurses, from direct care staff to those with leadership positions.

We support HF 3848/4169 because it would allow our nurses to practice to the top of their license, meet the expectations of today's mobile patients, and reduce the burdens associated with maintaining separate licenses in multiple states. It is a reasonable change that both advances the practice of nursing and maintains strong patient care standards for Minnesota patients.

Sincerely,



MariBeth Olson, MA, RN, BC-NE
VP, Patient Care Services
Mercy Hospital



Nicole Kveton, RN, MHA
VP, Patient Care
Allina Health Group



Maggie Borer, RN, BSN
Director of Nursing
Allina Health