



April 27, 2022

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Representative Moran, Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Moran and Committee Members,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest voice for professional nursing in the State of Minnesota. We are a leader in both the labor and health care communities and a voice for our members on issues relating to the professional, economic and general well-being of nurses and in promoting the health and well-being of the public.

We want to thank you for including the elements of the Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act in HF 4706, the 2022 Omnibus Health and Human Services bill.

We are at a critical moment for our healthcare system in Minnesota. There is a crisis in our hospitals. Nurses are overworked and overwhelmed, hospitals are understaffed, and patients are overcharged, because hospital management is putting patient care in the backseat to their bottom lines.

Nurses have been raising the alarm about understaffing in our hospitals, and the effect on patient care and safety, for years. While the COVID-19 pandemic did not create these problems, the pandemic made clear to the public what nurses have been saying for so long: that we are in desperate need of action to put patient care and hospital workers ahead of the profits of hospital executives.

The Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act is our best chance to stabilize our healthcare workforce in Minnesota. It is not a one-size-fits-all solution, it is a hyper-local proposal, putting nurses and hospital managers at the table together to set staff levels. This will help nurses stay on the job to provide safe, excellent care that patients deserve. It will also provide funding for mental health services and loan forgiveness programs to help recruit and retain more nurses for the future.

We are also pleased to see the inclusion of the following items:

- Health Care Affordability Board and Council
- Continuous MA eligibility for children under 21
- Benefit and cost analysis of a universal health reform proposal
- Prescription Drug Advisory Board
- Requiring compliance with the federal No Surprises Act
- Coverage of Postpartum Care
- Support for survivors and monitoring the impact of Long COVID
- Minnesota school health initiative
- Program to distribute COVID-19 tests, masks, and respirators

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AFL-CIO

- Report on transparency of health care payments
- Screening for eligibility for health coverage or assistance
- Health Equity Advisory and Leadership (HEAL) Council
- Minnesota Care coverage for undocumented immigrants

Thank you again for putting all these items into HF 4706, along with the Keeping Nurses at the Bedside Act. We hope that you listen to the people who continue to put their lives on the line to care for you, your family, and our community as this pandemic stretches into the third year and vote yes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Turner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Mary Turner, RN  
President  
Minnesota Nurses Association