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College of St. Benedict/St. John's University • Concordia College
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Herzing University • Metropolitan State University
MN Intercollegiate Nursing Consortium-Gustavus Adolphus and St. Olaf Colleges
Minnesota State University Mankato • Minnesota State University Moorhead
National American University • Presentation College • St. Catherine University
St. Cloud State University • St. Mary's University • The College of St. Scholastica
University of Minnesota • Winona State University*

March 3, 2012

To: Minnesota Senators and Representatives

The Minnesota Association of Colleges of Nursing (MACN), representing all twenty one baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs in the State of Minnesota, supports S.F. 230 Nurse Licensure Compact legislation. Passage of this bill allows Minnesota to join 24 other states including the states surrounding Minnesota as participants in the Nurse Licensure Compact. MACN membership unanimously voted in support of joining the Nurse Licensure Compact at its 2012, February 24th meeting.

As universities and colleges representing baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs in the State, we have increasing demands for clinical placement of nursing students. Consequently, we have become dependent upon health care organizations and agencies in neighboring states for clinical experiences vital to the preparation of nursing students. Participation in the Nurse Licensure Compact would enhance our ability to supervise students involved in learning experiences at out-of-state facilities. Facilitation of out-of-state experiences also relieves the level of demand for nursing student placements within Minnesota particularly in border communities such as Winona and Duluth. Joining our neighboring states in the nursing compact would facilitate the clinical agency partnerships that have become so critical to our nursing students.

Minnesota is recognized for having world class health care. As a result many persons from neighboring states, the nation and the world come to Minnesota to benefit from our outstanding health services. With this privilege comes the responsibility to provide follow-up or sustained care to patients and their families. The Nurse Licensure Compact would allow Minnesota nurses to provide patients with information and support without the need to obtain licenses in every state.

MACN membership remains supportive of the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) and its mission to represent the state's nurses at the bargaining table. We respectfully disagree with the concern raised by MNA and other collective bargaining organizations that this legislation would interfere with collective bargaining and the ability of nurses to strike. Based on our experience nurses from other states are brought in regardless of the lack of compact legislation. We believe that benefits of the Nurse Licensure Compact greatly outweigh any potential effect upon MNA activities.

For additional information regarding the Nurse Licensure Compact we encourage you to review the National Council for State Boards of Nursing Fact Sheet for Legislators at https://www.ncsbn.org/2010_NLCA_factsheet_FINAL.pdf. This site also provides the following suggestion for language that can support existing labor laws.

"A fear of union strike-breaking is a known barrier to adoption of the NLC. To this end, optional enabling language offers a provision which stipulates that NLC statutes do not supersede existing labor laws. In the history of the NLC, there has not been a reported situation where NLC nurses used their privilege to practice to go into another NLC state where there was a strike."

Thank you for supporting this important Legislation. We are available to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nurse Licensure Compact and the impact of this legislation has for nursing in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



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