

April 10, 2018

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

Dear Representative Schomacker:

I am writing in strong support of HF3848 that will include Minnesota in the Nurse Licensure Compact. In addition to enabling Minnesota nurses to provide care through technology to patients that live in other states, this bill has important positive implications for nurse education program in Minnesota and nurses from other states that wish to enroll in Minnesota nursing graduate programs.

Individuals seeking a graduate degree in a school of nursing are already registered nurses. They may be in a masters program or a doctor of nursing practice program, studying to be, for example, a nurse practitioner, nurse midwife or a nurse administrator or educator.

Many graduate nursing programs provide flexibility to their students by using some online course delivery. This enables students who are living in other states to be enrolled as a graduate student in Minnesota graduate nursing programs. These out of state students prefer to do their practicum experiences in their home state. For some of these states, because Minnesota is not part of the nurse licensure compact, the faculty has to be licensed in the state where the student resides.

Let me illustrate the situation for nurses in South Dakota who wish to attend a graduate nursing program in Minnesota. The South Dakota Board of Nursing requires that if a Minnesota graduate nursing program admits a student residing in South Dakota, faculty who teach any course that the student takes has to be licensed as a RN in South Dakota. What that means for the masters and doctor of nursing practice programs in Minnesota is that all faculty would need a South Dakota nursing license.

If Minnesota was a compact state for nurse licensure, graduate nursing programs in Minnesota could accept students from any of the compact states and significantly minimize barriers for these nurses who want to learn in Minnesota graduate nursing programs. It would further reduce the significant burden on the graduate nursing programs in Minnesota needing to keep informed about the regulations for all boards of nursing in the U.S. and paying for additional licenses for faculty.

Thank you for your leadership in bringing this legislation forward.

Sincerely,



Christine Mueller, PhD, RN, FGSA, FAAN
Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Programs