

March 26, 2018

VIA EMAIL

Representative Joe Schomacker
509 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
E-mail: Rep.Joe.Schomacker@house.mn

Dear Rep. Schomacker:

I am writing to request that you **support** HF 3848, *Nurse Licensure Compact*, which has been referred to Health Human Services Reform Committee. This legislation would enhance access to care for those who are most in need in Minnesota, especially those who are living in rural areas.

As you are aware, in addition to Avera's facilities in Minnesota, we also have a telehealth presence through Avera eCARE. Each of the telemedicine nurses must be licensed in Minnesota to provide care through telemedicine. One service provided through Avera eCARE is through behavioral health assessments. These assessments provide direction for on-site providers who are treating patients experiencing behavioral health issues, allowing them to identify the appropriate level of care more quickly, which, in-turn, provides an opportunity for better quality of care and better outcomes for patients.

The Nurse Licensure Compact will also decrease administrative costs for health care and for government by providing background checks that are more efficient and effective, as long as the applicant meets the requirements. If an applicant does not meet those requirements, an application for licensure may still be made in the traditional manner.

Avera, the health ministry of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, is a regional partnership of health professionals who share support services to maintain excellent care at more than 300 locations in eastern South Dakota and surrounding states, including **Pipestone, as well as, Edgerton, Fulda, Ivanhoe, Jasper, Lake Benton, Lakefield, Luverne, Marshall, Tyler, Windom and Worthington** in Minnesota.

For these reasons, Avera requests that you **support** HF 3848, *Nurse Licensure Compact*, and provide better health care access to Minnesotans, especially those who are in rural areas.

Sincerely,


Deb Fischer-Clemens, RN, BSN, MHA
Senior Vice President