



March 30, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Representative Michael Nelson, Chair  
House Labor and Industry Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Nelson and Members of the Committee,

With over 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) represents 80 percent of all active bedside hospital nurses in Minnesota and is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state. We are a leader in nursing, labor, healthcare, and social justice communities, and a voice for nurses and patients on issues related to the health and well-being of the public.

MNA members across the state send their thanks for the strong labor provisions in this bill. There are many provisions included in the A23 amendment to H.F. 2755 that MNA supports, some of which are highlighted here:

- **Nursing Home Workforce Standards:** Healthcare workers have one primary concern – to ensure that patients receive quality healthcare services. Rules and guidance that provide for fair wages, more consistent working hours, and other worker protections are vitally needed in our state to ensure that healthcare workers in nursing homes can provide the high-quality care that they want to deliver. These changes, including the establishment of the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board, will not only help healthcare workers and patients, but will also help attract workers to the industry by raising the bar and establishing better standards.
- **Public Employment Relations Board (PERB):** Nurses know the importance of utilizing contract bargaining to advocate for better working conditions, fair wages, and quality patient care. Fully funding and improving the PERB is an important step to support public sector workers and their ability to advocate for meaningful change. Nurses also strongly support the language to provide public workers the ability to bargain over safe staffing ratios throughout the public sector jobs as nurses know first-hand how important having a voice in staffing is to ensure they can provide quality patient care. Ensuring that workers can work safely and comfortably helps our economy and our state. MNA supports the establishment of the ergonomics program under MNOSHA, especially at licensed healthcare facilities to better protect and sustain our workforce.
- **Worker Safety:** provisions in Articles 2 and 8 will support the safety, health, and well-being of workers in industries known for risks and injuries. Many workers from agriculture, food processing, and warehouse workplaces are injured due to inadequate safeguards being in place to protect workers,

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including basic provisions such as ensuring that training and posted safety materials are provided in the languages spoken by workers. These workers keep our state going and we are thankful for their work, including their efforts to support safer and healthier work environments.

Again, thank you for your work to craft a robust Labor omnibus bill that will protect, support, retain, and invest in Minnesota's workforce. Championing this work is vital for all communities, families, and workers across our state. We thank you for the work that has gone into developing this comprehensive legislative proposal, which MNA is proud to support.

Shannon Cunningham  
Director of Governmental and Community Relations  
Minnesota Nurses Association