

March 8, 2023

Senator Erin P. Murphy
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3211
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Sandra Feist
409 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Sen. Murphy and Rep. Feist:

As unions that represent a variety of healthcare workers, including a number of nurses and other direct care workers covered by the bill, we write to express our support of HF1700/SF1561. SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa represents 50,000 healthcare workers around the state in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and self-directed homecare. AFSCME Council 65 represents 15,000 workers in healthcare, long-term care, and public service throughout Greater Minnesota. Together, we urge your support for the Keeping Nurses At The Bedside Bill.

The bill will help ensure staffing levels and other conditions at hospitals are safe for patients and workers. We appreciate that the bill includes not just direct care registered nurses, but also other direct care workers, on the various committees. We represent workers in these areas and we know they are eager to share their expertise and experience.

Healthcare workers face staffing shortages across a variety of sectors and programs, but we believe we can best address the workforce crisis in an industry by providing workers with a greater voice over their working conditions. This bill gives nurses and other direct care staff a stronger voice which will help make their jobs better and more attractive. This will better retain workers and help attract new workers to the field.

Sincerely yours,

AFSCME Council 65
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa