



April 12, 2023

Professional Distinction

Representative Liz Olson, Chair  
House Ways and Means Committee  
479 State Office Building

Personal Dignity

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Patient Advocacy

Chair Olson and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

With over 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest organization representing professional nursing across Minnesota. As leaders in healthcare, we are a voice for hospital nurses across the state on issues related to the health and wellness of our communities.

Hospital CEOs continue to close hospitals, pay millions to themselves and other top executives, and then deny nurses and patients the resources needed to ensure safe staffing and quality patient care at the bedside. They have repeatedly made clear their priorities are firmly focused on corporate expansion and their own bottom lines. Nurses have one concern: to ensure quality care for our patients. That starts at the bedside and extends to our communities. MNA is opposed to the ongoing corporatization and consolidation of the healthcare industry, which continues to result in service reductions, higher prices for patients, and the closure of hospitals and clinics – all in the pursuit of greater profits (despite most health systems being “nonprofit” organizations).

Federal regulations and oversight prove insufficient in halting increased consolidation of the healthcare industry here in our state despite the dangers posed. MNA supports increased investments in the oversight and regulation of corporate mergers to better address our state’s needs. As such, MNA supports the funding for the Office of the Attorney General included in the State and Local Government Finance Omnibus bill (HF1830) because it would empower the Attorney General to work with other states to address complex multi-state antitrust cases, likely including healthcare mergers and transactions, and provides the funding needed to more adequately staff antitrust investigations and related work. With ongoing consolidation already leading to lowered accessibility, worsened care, and higher prices – and with few state safeguards in place to protect the rural and urban communities most vulnerable to service reductions with future healthcare consolidation – more sufficient staffing for the Attorney General’s Office to oversee and support such work is vitally important for our state’s health.

We hope members of the committee will support strengthening patient and consumer protections by supporting the funding for the Office of the Attorney General in HF1830, including the \$2.5 million one-time funding for antitrust and nonprofits oversight.

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