

May 2022

Chair Jim Abeler
Minnesota State Senate
3215 Senate Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Tina Liebling
Minnesota House of Representatives
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Abeler, Chair Liebling and members of the Health and Human Services Conference Committee:

As the organizations identified on the following page, we thank you for your commitment and interest in issues related to the nursing profession. We strongly believe that adoption of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is needed in Minnesota, both to improve access to and delivery of care, and to provide nurses with greater professional opportunities. The NLC allows nurses to obtain one license to work in multiple states. The compact upholds high clinical and professional standards and has been widely adopted across the country with great success. As technology evolves, patients become increasingly mobile, and as we continue to face a global pandemic, it is imperative that nurses and organizations have multiple opportunities available to meet the needs of patients.

The NLC is currently enacted in 37 states and two jurisdictions, allowing nurses in those locations to pursue a compact license. By doing so, qualified nurses expand access to care and serve patients in-person and remotely across state lines without having to go through the costly and burdensome administrative process of first securing a license in each jurisdiction. In addition, the NLC does not prevent a nurse who is ineligible for a multistate licensure from obtaining a single state license based on their state's requirements and the applicant's preference, preserving flexibility for nurse professionals.

The NLC has been in existence for over 20 years and continues to prove its value by increased membership and interest from other states. Minnesota nurses (both registered nurses and licensed professional nurses) support the NLC. A recent Minnesota Board of Nursing survey completed in collaboration with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing found that more Minnesota nurses support adoption of the NLC than oppose it by a nearly 10:1 ratio. Further, the NLC not only expands access to care through flexible licensure, but also ensures safe and appropriate care. Recent research and data show that nurses operating under compact licenses have equal or better safety and disciplinary records than those operating in states without the compact.

Health care is increasingly practiced across state lines. Interstate licensure is a necessary part of modernizing health care infrastructure—particularly for a state that prides itself on being a health care leader. The pandemic demonstrated the efficacy and importance of supporting nurses' ability to practice across state lines. The time for Minnesota to pass the NLC is now.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

