



February 28th, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Representative Nelson, Chair
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,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state of Minnesota. We are a leader in both the labor and healthcare communities and a voice for our members on issues relating to the professional, economic, and general well-being of nurses and in promoting the health and well-being of the public.

We are writing in support of HF1690. We believe this bill is a great approach to ensure there is better protection, support, and fairness in public employment. Public employees are the backbone of our social safety net and public programs. They deserve these crucial changes to provide them a stronger voice and protection in their vital work throughout Minnesota.

Public sector nurses are vital to the health and wellness of our state and deserve a voice at the table. MNA advocates for safe patient staffing and believes that nurses know best how to provide quality care to their patients. National research studies continue to demonstrate the effectiveness and importance of registered nurse-to-patient ratios in ensuring both patient safety and the highest quality nursing care. MNA believes that nurses' professional judgement should be part of staffing decisions and applauds Representative Jordan's work to enable public sector nurses to have a voice through collective bargaining to ensure that quality patient care is the top priority.

HF1690 addresses many other gaps in public sector employment protections:

- protects the privacy of public workers by making more of their personnel data private
- ensures that workers who lose wages or benefits during a government shutdown are fairly compensated
- allows all public employees the right to request and allow payroll deductions for their union dues
- expands workers' access to their union representatives while on the job

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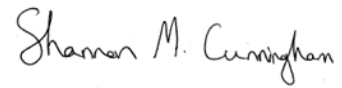


AFL-CIO

MNA fully stands behind this work to ensure that public sector employees have the necessary protections and can participate in their full ability to organize, collectively bargaining, and participate in their union. On behalf of the nurses of Minnesota, I

think you for your consideration of HF1690 and we encourage you to support these important changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon M. Cunningham".

Shannon M. Cunningham
Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association