

Testimony for HF3848
Nurse Licensure Compact

My name is Christine Mueller. I am representing the Minnesota Association of Colleges of Nursing, an organization of the 20 schools of nursing in Minnesota offering baccalaureate and higher degrees. I also serve as the Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing.

I am speaking in support of House File 3848. The Nurse Licensure Compact has important implications for schools of nursing that offer graduate degrees. Individuals seeking a graduate degree in a school of nursing are already registered nurses. They may be in a masters program or a doctor of nursing practice program, studying to be, for example, a nurse practitioner, nurse midwife or a nurse administrator or educator.

Many graduate nursing programs provide flexibility to their students by using some online course delivery. This results in graduate students who are enrolled in Minnesota graduate nursing programs and living in other states. These out of state students prefer to do their practicum experiences in their home state. For some of these states, because Minnesota is not part of the nurse licensure compact, the faculty have to be licensed in the state where the student resides.

Let me illustrate the situation for nurses in South Dakota who wish to attend a graduate nursing program in Minnesota. The South Dakota Board of Nursing requires that if a Minnesota graduate nursing program admits a student residing in South Dakota, faculty who teach any course that the student takes has to be licensed as a RN in South Dakota. What that means for the doctor of nursing practice program at the University of Minnesota is that approximately 20 faculty would need a South Dakota nursing license.

If Minnesota was a compact state for nurse licensure, we could accept students from any of the compact states and significantly minimize barriers for these nurses who want to learn in Minnesota graduate nursing programs. It would further reduce the significant burden on the graduate nursing programs in Minnesota needing to keep informed about the regulations for all boards of nursing in the U.S. and paying for additional licenses for faculty.

Thank you

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