

February 18, 2022

The Honorable Paul J. Utke Chair, Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee 3403 Minnesota Senate Bldg. St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Senate Bill 2302 - Support

Dear Chair Utke:

The Alliance for Connected Care (the Alliance) is an advocacy organization dedicated to facilitating the delivery of high-quality care using connected care technology. Our members are leading health care and technology companies from across the health care spectrum, representing insurers, health systems and technology innovators, and our Advisory Board includes more than 40 patient and provider groups.

We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 2302, which would adopt the Nurse Licensure Compact in the State of Minnesota. The Nurse Licensure Compact allows for the issuance of multistate licenses that allow nurses to practice in their home state and other compact states, without having to obtain additional licenses. This bill is critical because it allows for mutual recognition of state licenses between states participating in the compact.

As a telehealth advocacy organization, the Alliance believes nurses are an essential component to expanding access to care through the use of telehealth, especially for patients who live in rural and underserved communities who may not have access to services they need where they reside. Nurses have also been critical to expanding access to care throughout the pandemic, particularly in areas experiencing workforce shortages. One of the biggest barriers to telehealth becoming a regular patient and provider choice is the administrative burden caused by the variation in licensure requirements from state to state.

The Nurse Licensure Compact would help alleviate such administrative burdens through establishing a multistate compact that has a policy of mutual licensure recognition and that does not require additional licensing, while simultaneously helping to improve patient access to quality health care. This bill would help to improve continuity of care, increase licensure portability for nurses, and increase consumer access to health care in Minnesota. It would also help expand the utilization of telehealth without unnecessary regulatory barriers.

We hope the Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee will support Senate Bill 2302. Thank you for your consideration - we look forward to working with you on this important effort. Please contact Casey Osgood at 203-536-5865 or casey.osgood@connectwithcare.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

Krista Drobac Executive Director

Alliance for Connected Care

Mista Drobac