



Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

## **THE MINNESOTA NURSES ASSOCIATION OPPOSES ALLOWING REGISTERED NURSES LICENSED IN OTHER STATES TO PRACTICE NURSING IN MINNESOTA DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SO LONG AS MINNESOTA REGISTERED NURSES JOBS ARE AT RISK**

The Minnesota Nurses Association is opposed to relaxing licensure requirements so that out-of-state registered nurses (“nurses”) can practice in Minnesota during the COVID-19 pandemic because Minnesota’s registered nursing jobs are currently at risk and out-of-state nurses would displace Minnesota licensed nurses. Preserving jobs for Minnesota’s nurses should be one of the State’s top priorities during the pandemic for their patients, their community’s welfare, their families and dependents.

### **MINNESOTA’S REGISTERED NURSES ARE LOSING THEIR LIVELIHOOD**

Elective surgeries and procedures, outpatient care, and discouragement of nonemergent Emergency Department visits in Minnesota during the Peacetime Emergency has resulted in lost jobs for Minnesota nurses in the form of reduced hours, furloughs, and even layoffs with threats of significantly more layoffs on the horizon. At the same time, Minnesota cases of coronavirus are expected to surge within the week. For these reasons and others, consideration of out-of-state nurses practicing in Minnesota should be viewed as a last resort. Healthcare facilities should retrain displaced Minnesota nurses so they may continue to provide optimal care for the people of Minnesota during this pandemic.

Additionally, Minnesota is seeing an unprecedented amount of unemployment claims. Providing jobs to out-of-state nurses while at the same time providing unemployment insurance and other public assistance to out-of-work nurses makes no fiscal sense.

### **OUT-OF-STATE REGISTERD NURSES CAN ALREADY PRACTICE IN MINNESOTA WITH MINIMAL BARRIERS**

Minnesota allows border state reciprocity for nurses with licenses from Wisconsin, Iowa, North and South Dakota meaning, if a nurse is licensed in one of those states and meets basic criteria, they can practice in Minnesota. (Minnesota Stat. 148.211, Subd. 2(a)).

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Licensure by Endorsement is a fairly simple process by which an out-of-state nurse can obtain a Minnesota license. While waiting to be Licensed by Endorsement, a nurse receives a temporary permit to practice nursing in Minnesota. Under Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-23, the Minnesota Board of Nursing is authorized to streamline the process and extend temporary permits.

Finally, there is no evidence that relaxing licensure would help with staffing needs, as every state in the nation is struggling with the pandemic.

### **OUT-OF-STATE NURSES DO NOT MEET MINNESOTA STANDARDS OF CARE**

There is plenty of evidence to show that other states licensure standards are not as stringent as Minnesota's. States vary in their Nurse Practice Acts, continuing education requirements and nursing practice standards, which pose a significant threat to patient safety.

For these reasons, the Minnesota Nurses Association respectfully request out-of-state nurses not be allowed to practice in Minnesota when Minnesota's nursing jobs are being taken away.