



February 16, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Senator Matt Klein, Chair  
Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
Minnesota State Senate  
95 University Ave W.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Klein and Members of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the leading voice for professional nursing in the State of Minnesota. As leaders in labor and health care, we are a voice for hospital nurses around the state on issues related to the health and well-being of the public.

We would like to thank the authors of S.F. 6 for introducing this piece of legislation, and Chair Klein for ensuring it was heard. If passed, S.F. 6 would prevent Minnesota patients from being overcharged for necessities and other essential goods or services during times of abnormal market disruption – whether that be during a public health crisis, a natural or manmade disaster, or other public emergencies.

Strong price gouging laws are vital to protecting consumers and preventing bad actors from deploying predatory practices that harm the public by making it more difficult, or even impossible, for Minnesotans to access essential items and services, such as water, food, shelter, transportation, healthcare, and medicine necessary for their health and well-being.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the lack of consumer safeguards currently in place to protect Minnesotans. Early in the pandemic, nurses faced a PPE shortage fueled by price gouging and a lack of pandemic preparedness that greatly exacerbated the risk of exposure to the virus, including additional dangers to frontline caregivers that could have been avoided. Other essentials were also impacted: the price of disinfectants and cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer, gloves, medicine, and other goods skyrocketed. These items are crucial to implementing strong public health measures and the lack of access put Minnesotans' health at greater risk and cost countless dollars during a time of great economic uncertainty. Much of this could have been avoided with stronger price gouging laws in place.

S.F. 6 would strengthen consumer protections in our state and help support the health and well-being of Minnesotans moving forward. As such, the Minnesota Nurses Association wholeheartedly supports this legislation.

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