



February 17, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Minnesota State Senate
Minnesota Senate Bldg.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Members of the Minnesota Senate,

With over 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the leading organization representing professional nursing across Minnesota. As leaders in health care, we are a voice for hospital nurses across the state on issues related to the health and wellness of the public. As leaders in labor, we advocate on behalf of workers and working families, including marginalized Minnesotans facing the greatest barriers to emotional, physical, and economic well-being.

We thank the authors and advocates who have supported S.F. 26, legislation that will restore the right to vote for Minnesotans who completed their penal sentences and are seeking to fully reenter their communities. We believe that our criminal justice system should not only be about justice, but also about rehabilitation and that denying Minnesotans the right to vote after they have already served their sentence is itself a great injustice.

Greater involvement in civic life, including practicing one's right to vote, leads to stronger ties in one's own community. Justice-involved Minnesotans deserve the opportunity to fully participate in civic life, and to make this a reality, the Legislature should remove antiquated laws that were originally established with the purpose of disenfranchising members of our communities and barring them from participating in elections.

The United States was founded upon the idea that taxation without representation is injustice, and yet thousands of working, tax-paying Minnesotans across the state are barred from voting due to existing statutes. This legislation, S.F. 26 would work to right this wrong by restoring the right to vote for Minnesotans whose voting rights have been unjustly taken from them, and would also help prevent this from happening to future members of our communities.

We hope all members of the Minnesota Senate will support this legislation when it comes to the floor for a vote.

345 Randolph Avenue
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 651.414.2800
800.536.4662
Fax: 651.695.7000
Email: mnnurses@mnnurses.org
Web: www.mnnurses.org



AFL-CIO

Shannon Cunningham
Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association