



March 22, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St Paul, MN 55103

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Dear Chair Wiklund and committee members,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state of Minnesota. We are a leader in both the labor and healthcare communities and a voice for our members on issues relating to the professional, economic, and general well-being of nurses and the public.

We are writing in support of SF 1771, a bill to study the costs and benefits of a universal healthcare system, in comparison with the current public and private healthcare financing system.

In other countries with some form of public healthcare financing, costs to patients and taxpayers are far lower, and health outcomes are better. We support this study to show how a public healthcare system in Minnesota would compare to our current patchwork of public and private insurance. In our current complicated, expensive, and inefficient system, too many Minnesotans are underinsured, rationing medications, delaying or skipping care due to cost, and going into debt or even bankruptcy due to healthcare bills.

Minnesotans deserve to know what our healthcare could look like if the profit motive of insurance, hospital corporations and pharmaceutical companies was removed, and resources all went to care. Residents can't really consider different solutions to our broken system without knowing the numbers. Studies conducted in other states show that most residents would pay far less in taxes (or premiums paid to the state) than they are currently paying for insurance premiums, deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance and uncovered services.

Minnesotans also deserve to know how much of our healthcare spending currently goes to executive compensation and bonuses, marketing, lobbying, waste, inefficiency, complicated eligibility systems, and claims disputes. We are confident that when Minnesotans see how much we could save by covering everyone and eliminating these costs, they will demand change.

Thank you for your consideration and we urge you to support SF1771.

Sincerely,

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