



April 4th, 2024

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Chair Noor
MN House Human Services Finance Committee
Minnesota State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Noor and committee members,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the leading voice for hospital nursing in Minnesota. As leaders in labor and health care, we are a voice for frontline nurses around the state who work to ensure that patients in hospitals are receiving appropriate access to care and services at the appropriate facilities. We are writing today in support of HF 4366 related to priority admissions.

Healthcare in Minnesota used to be about taking care of each other. Our system of nation-leading care was built by passionate providers and community members working together to build up and sustain community hospitals across our state. However, in recent years, we've seen the focus drift away from the bedside to the bottom line.

These misplaced priorities result in fewer critical care staff at the bedside, with serious consequences for care and working conditions in our hospitals. Healthcare workers face moral distress and leave the bedside in increasing numbers; patients wait longer for medicine or care, and experience more adverse outcomes; and the risk of violence goes up for patients and workers in our hospitals.

Hospitals are now one of the most dangerous places to work in Minnesota. In 2021, 97 percent of surveyed Minnesota nurses had observed violence in the workplace, including verbal and physical intimidation and assaults, and 62 percent reported that they consider patient safety to be at risk at their hospital due to management inaction.

Without proper support, patients with increased needs are not able to transfer to facilities where they can receive the care they need for their individualized needs. It's vital that we properly invest in our state healthcare facilities to help alleviate patient boarding in our acute-care hospitals. Removing the 48-hour rule and creating a better system to prioritize care-based patient needs will open beds up for many patients languishing in hospitals, thereby decreasing both patient boarding issues and repeated violence against direct care staff.

We commend Representative Edelson for taking on this challenging issue and working to find productive solutions. We ask that you please support HF 4366

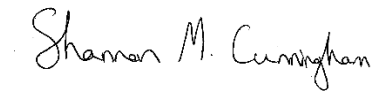
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AFL-CIO

and vote to pass the bill. Nurses look forward to seeing the continued work on this important legislation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon M. Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Shannon M. Cunningham
Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association