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Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

February 13, 2025

Senator Jim Carlson, Chair, Senate Elections Committee
3221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Carlson and Members of the Senate Elections Committee,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) represents 80 percent of all active bedside hospital nurses in Minnesota and is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state. We are a leader in nursing, labor, health care, and social justice in our communities, and are a voice for nurses and patients on issues relating to the professional, economic, and general health and well-being of Minnesotans statewide.

On behalf of the members of MNA I write to express strong support for Senate File 1071, which will give local units of government the option to select ranked choice voting for their local elections. The Legislature often supports pilot projects or scalable efforts before adopting an initiative statewide, and in that spirit, it seems this would be a logical approach to allowing for greater implementation of ranked choice voting across the state.

As you may know, MNA is a proud supporter of Ranked Choice Voting. We believe allowing voters to rank their choices is good for democracy and allows candidates to lead with ideas rather than political party. There are also strong connections with better health outcomes for those who have access to voting and feel their voice matters in the democratic process, while engaged community members are more likely to know how to access complex health care services or other supports for themselves, their loved ones, or for other members of the community. We support ranked choice voting in elections and commend the work to create better access for this system.

We strongly believe that allowing local units of government to use ranked choice voting makes perfect sense - in ensuring that campaign discussions are more centered around local issues rather than the talking points of one part or another, and by continuing to build proof of concept for statewide ranked choice adoption. We hope the Legislature will give them the option.

Sincerely,

Shannon Cunningham
Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association

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



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