Minnesota Hospital Association

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February 6, 2015

Senator Kathy J. Sheran
Capitol Room G-12
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1605

Dear Senator Sheran:

On behalf of the Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) and our members, which include 143 hospitals and health systems caring for patients and serving communities located throughout the state, we are writing to you to express our support for SF 253 and to thank you for authoring this legislation.

Minnesota health care professionals provide care and our patients often seek care across state lines. This legislation will help facilitate multiple state licensure for qualified physicians, while maintaining Minnesota's standards and requirements for state-based licensure.

In addition to expediting the licensure processes for physicians moving or who practice in multiple states, this legislation will help advance telehealth services which can promote greater access and improve quality of care by making expertise more readily available from a distant physician, especially in rural communities.

Participation in the Compact can also improve patient safety by creating a closer to real time communication system between participating states to exchange disciplinary action or findings between boards of medical practice.

MHA believes this legislation will benefit Minnesota patients, help reduce some of the administrative burdens on physicians who wish to practice in more than one state, and make it easier for border communities to recruit and retain physicians. It is important to emphasize that the Compact will not change Minnesota's Medical Practice Act or the high standards our physicians must meet to obtain and retain their licenses to practice.

We ask the Committee to support and pass SF 253. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Krinkie

Kristin Loncorich

Mary Krinkie, Vice President
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