



November 21, 2014
Mark Schoenbaum
Minnesota Department of Health
P.O. Box 64882
St. Paul, MN 55164-0882

Chairmen Huntley and Clausen:

The Minnesota Association of Colleges of Nursing (MACN) represents baccalaureate and higher degree programs in nursing across Minnesota. The mission of MACN is to be *the voice of baccalaureate and higher degree nursing education in Minnesota by leading change and promoting excellence to optimize the health of the public*. We, at MACN, would like to comment on the recommendations of the legislative workforce commission, second draft.

MACN applauds the work of the commission and appreciates the opportunity to add input. Workforce shortages in nursing are well documented as is the nursing contribution to primary care. Adding to the nurse practitioner workforce will provide access to high quality care for citizens across the state of Minnesota.

We would like to urge the Commission to be creative in addressing the issues with clinical education for nursing students at all levels. Given the number of underserved citizens in rural and urban Minnesota, and the many students seeking health provider education, it is clear that population needs can be addressed and access improved through a variety of primary care providers. The proposed model gives preference for one type of primary care provider over others, which will not increase access or numbers of patients served.

Please note that MACN strongly supports recommendations 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 15, 19, 20, 21, and 26.

MACN recommends:

Strengthening recommendation 7 to include an assessment of the types of institutions receiving MERC funding to ensure inclusion of small rural hospitals, community clinics which protect and nurture the rural workforce and healthcare needs of underserved populations;

State explicitly that nursing and nurse practitioner students are included in recommendations 9, 16, 22, 23, 24 and 25 or that similar outcomes are designed to address those students.

Thank you for the opportunity to give our support and suggestions. We are available if further information would be helpful.

Sincerely,

Jeanine E. Gangeness, PhD, RN
Dean and Professor
Bemidji School of Nursing
Bemidji State University/ Northwest Technical College
Co-Chair MACN

Margaret Dexheimer Pharris, PhD, RN, CNE, FAAN
Associate Dean for Nursing and Professor
Henrietta Schmoll School of Health
St. Catherine University
Co-Chair MACN

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