



3900 W. Avera Drive  
Sioux Falls, SD 57108-5721  
(605) 322-4700  
Fax: (605) 322-4799

February 9, 2015

[www.avera.org](http://www.avera.org)

Senator Kathy Sheran  
G-12 Capitol  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Senator Sheran,

I am writing on behalf of Avera Health to express our support for your legislation, S.F. 253, which would authorize Minnesota to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact.

Avera Health is the health ministry of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters. We are a regional partnership of health professionals who serve patients in South Dakota, North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. In Minnesota, we manage hospitals in Marshall, Tyler and Pipestone and own and operate clinics in Marshall, Ivanhoe, Fulda, Mountain Lake, Lakefield, Windom, Worthington, Jasper, Lake Benton, Tyler, Springfield, Tracy, Jackson, Redwood Falls and Pipestone. We also provide long-term care services at nursing homes in Marshall, Ivanhoe and Tyler.

Physicians employed by and associated with Avera Health provide care on both sides of the Minnesota-South Dakota border. Physicians that live in South Dakota may provide care at Avera Health hospitals, clinics and nursing homes in Minnesota. Similarly, Minnesota physicians may serve patients admitted to Avera McKennan Hospital, our 505-bed flagship hospital located in Sioux Falls that provides specialty hospital care to many Minnesota patients. In addition, Avera eCARE™, one of the largest telemedicine networks in the nation, is based in Sioux Falls and provides Minnesotans with access to specialty health care providers across your great state.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact will speed up the process of issuing licenses for Avera Health physicians that practice in multiple states. Minnesota joining this compact will allow physicians that practice in South Dakota and Minnesota to be able to receive a license in each state and be under the jurisdiction of the state medical board where the patient is located at the time care is delivered to the patient. This compact is expected to significantly reduce barriers to the process of gaining licensure in multiple states, helping facilitate licensure portability and telemedicine while widening access to health care by physicians, particularly in the small rural Minnesota communities served by Avera.

Thank you for authoring this important legislation that will facilitate care for Minnesota patients, whether they are in Minnesota or South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Deb Fischer-Clemens, RN, BSN, MHA  
Senior Vice President of Public Policy  
Avera Health

*Sponsored by the Benedictine  
and Presentation Sisters*