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Dear Senator Giessel,

I would like to take this opportunity to say I support SB 166.

I have been a member of the Board of Nursing for the past 7 years. During this time, the Board has been revising the proposed statute changes to reflect the current nursing practice, to enhance the qualifications of the Executive Administrator and establish a dedicated seat on the Board for an Advance Nurse Practitioner.

The nurses represented on the Board need to be practicing in their profession. This enables them to make informed decisions based on their experience. The educator position was initially written when there was only one baccalaureate education program in the state. The new wording expands the qualifications to include all associate, baccalaureate or graduate academic institutions.

A few changes address new titles that have evolved over the years as registered nurses become more educated in their areas of expertise.

The updating of the title from executive secretary to executive administrator is reflective of the duties performed by this individual. The executive administrator position has evolved to require a master in nursing to be considered for this position. The Board discussed at length the possibility of a nurse who has a master in another health related field. The conclusion is that the executive administrator is the **only nurse** in the office and needs to have experience to handle the volume of practice questions. A master degree in another field would not benefit the Board of Nursing. The master in nursing prepared pool of candidates is sufficient to provide a qualified candidate.

Other proposed statute changes apply to candidates who want to be licensed in the state of Alaska. These changes are currently what are being done since the process has evolved since the statutes were previously written and adopted.

Once again I support SB 166.

Sincerely,

Beth Farnstrom, RN
Alaska State Board of Nursing
Chair