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February 26, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

Thank you for sponsoring SB 53, "an act related to advanced practice registered nursing." The bill will update the Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) title, first adopted in 1980, to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) making it consistent with the APRN title now used in the majority of states.

Under current Alaska law the title "ANP" includes nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and certified clinical nurse specialists with nurse anesthetists as a separate category of clinician. The Consensus Model includes all four specialties under the title "APRN."

The Consensus Model, promulgated by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, seeks uniformity in APRN licensure, accreditation, certification, and education. Uniformity will expedite insurance reimbursement by eliminating confusion about service provider; it will allow APRNs from other states to more easily obtain AK licensure, and vice versa which will increase access to care for Alaskans.

SB 53 does not change scope of practice. ANPs and nurse anesthetists will continue to provide the same high quality, safe, accessible care they have provided to Alaskans across the state for 34 years. They will just have a new name: APRN.

Thank you very much for your advocacy on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lynn Hartz MSN, FNP-BC
Member Alaska Nurse Practitioner Association
Member APRN Alliance
Past member Alaska State Board of Nursing 1983-1984 and 1999-2003