

Amy Myers
8661 Brookridge Drive
Anchorage, AK 99504

February 24, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 53

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing in support of SB 53, "an act related to advanced practice registered nursing." This bill updates the 34 year old title "advanced nurse practitioner" (ANP) to "advanced practice registered nurse" (APRN) and aligns Alaska statute with a nationwide movement called "The Consensus Model."

Under current Alaska law the title "ANP" includes nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and certified clinical nurse specialists. Nurse anesthetists are 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.

I started the CNS journey back in 2009 when I became interested in becoming an advanced nurse. I had been a nurse for over 22 years and I knew I wanted to be in an advanced role. Being a CNS provides me with a way to still be clinical and work on improving quality care and outcomes. I remember going to the Board of Nursing with the Director of Nursing Practice during my school rotations and did not think it would be possible that a CNS would have title protection. Now that we do, coming in line with The Consensus Model would better align all of the advanced practice nurses into the role that we were trained to function with the rest of the nation. Your consideration and support is greatly appreciated.

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 issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



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