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March 3, 2015

Sen. Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 53 – Related to Advanced Practice Registered Nursing - SUPPORT

Dear Sen. Giessel,

On behalf of AARP Alaska's 86,000 members, we appreciate your leadership in sponsoring SB 53, and we offer our support. As the profession of nursing evolves, so does the need for updated nomenclature, and SB 53 accomplishes that by combining nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, certified clinical nurse specialists, and nurse anesthetists into a single category, Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).

Since its inception, AARP Alaska has been co-lead of the Alaska Nurse Action Coalition, which was formed through a national initiative of AARP and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to focus on recommendations contained in the 2010 Institute of Medicine report on nursing. As a participant with nurses from around the state, representing the gamut of practice settings and specialties, I have been gratified by the opportunity to collaborate on ways to expand opportunities for professional growth and leadership, promotion of best practices, and the development of a virtual Alaska Center on Nursing Excellence (ACONE <http://akcenterofnursing.org>).

The combination of all advance practice nurses under one title, APRN, will provide uniformity in licensure, accreditation, certification and education. It will also simplify third party reimbursement by clarifying the service provider. SB 53 does not alter scope of practice, but simply calls the high quality and professional care provided by the new name of Advance Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). We are pleased to offer our support and best wishes for passage and enactment of SB 53.

Respectfully,

Ken Helander
Advocacy Director

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