



Alaska Nurses Association
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March 9, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

We are writing on behalf of the Alaska Nurses Association in strong support of SB 53: "An Act related to Advanced Practice Registered Nursing." This bill will update the 34-year-old title "advanced nurse practitioner" or "ANP" to "advanced practice registered nurse" or "APRN" and aligns Alaska statute with a national 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 currently a separate category of clinician. The Consensus Model includes all four advanced practice nursing specialties under the title of "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 over service providers. This uniformity will also boost patient understanding of the APRN role, allowing patients to better participate in their healthcare. It will also allow APRNs from other states to more easily obtain Alaska nursing licensure, and vice versa. Uniformity in licensing means more healthcare providers for Alaska, and increased access for patient care.

SB 53 does not change scope of practice. Alaska's advanced practice registered nurses 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.

Once again, we sincerely thank you for your advocacy on this important issue.
Sincerely,

Donna Phillips, BSN, RN
Labor Council Chair
Alaska Nurses Association

Jane Erickson, RN, CCRN
Vice President, Board of Directors
Alaska Nurses Association

Arlene Briscoe, RN-BC
Legislative Chair
Alaska Nurses Association