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February 26, 2019

Senator Cathy Giessel
Alaska State Capitol
Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

RE: SB 36

I am an Alaska Registered Nurse who is in support of SB 36 "An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Nursing; and providing for an effective date."

The Alaska State Board of Nursing is performing their Statutory and Regulatory charges. Their actions are keeping the public safe by regulating the practices and education of Certified Nurse Aides (CNA), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), Registered Nurses (RN) and Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN). The Board is now more transparent than ever to the public. The Board has made available on the Alaska State Board of Nursing website an electronic board book so the public can prepare for the board meetings. The Board continues to offer time for public testimony at each meeting. The Board has a toll free number that the public can listen to the public portion of the meetings.

Since the 2010 legislative audit, the Board has completed several bills being passed to further protect and advance health care delivery to Alaskans. The Board was able to update the regulations for the independent practice of Advance Practical Registered Nurses (APRN). Alaska is leading the national trend of permitting APRNs to independently deliver high quality care to Alaskans.

The 2018 legislative audit identified a 42% increase in licensees since the 2010 audit. This was done without any permanent increase in office personnel. The auditor did a random sample of 51 licensees and all were found to have been issued in compliance with statutes and regulations.

I support extending the Alaska State Board of Nursing through SB 36.

Sincerely,

Beth Farnstrom, RN