



P.O. Box 244471
Anchorage, AK 99524-4471

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

February 27, 2017

Senator Giessel,

We are writing on behalf of the Alaska Nurses Foundation in strong support of SB 36 "An Act extending the termination date of the Board of Nursing; and providing for an effective date" of June 30, 2025. We thank Senator Giessel for her leadership on nursing issues.

The State's Board of Nursing provides essential support and regulatory infrastructure to our State's Certified Nurse Aides (CNA), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), Registered Nurses (RN) and Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN). The Board holds an essential role in promoting and protecting the health of Alaskans by assuring safe and effective nursing practice. In fulfilling their mission, the Board works in a transparent fashion making their meetings agenda's easily accessible to public and offering time for public testimony at each meeting. Further, a toll free number is provided that allows any member of the public to listen to the public portion of the meetings. All of this enhances the Board's development of regulations through which we are able to ensure that the nursing profession is abiding by the latest standards shaped by best practices and keeping pace with advancements in the field.

Similarly, it is essential that complaints about the care provided by a nurse be thoroughly investigated by Board of Nursing staff who are deeply knowledgeable about the practice of nursing and the State's regulations. By doing so we ensure the public's confidence in the nursing profession and delivery of healthcare in our State.

The Alaska Nurses Association appreciates your support of Alaska's nurses and the broader healthcare sector.

Sincerely,

Margaret S Wright, RN, MSN, PHCNS-BC, DrPH
President, Alaska Nurses Foundation