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Governor Mike Dunleavy
STATE OF ALASKA

March 7, 2025

The Honorable Gary Stevens
Senate President
Alaska State Legislature
Capitol Building, Room 111
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear President Stevens:

Under the authority of Article III, Section 18, of the Alaska Constitution, I am transmitting a bill to facilitate Alaska's entry into the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC), the nation's longest standing and most well-vetted professional licensure compact.

Joining this Compact will expand healthcare access across the State by streamlining and simplifying licensure requirements for registered and practical nurses who seek to practice in multiple states. Under this legislation, and in light of Alaska's 21 percent registered nurse vacancy rate reported in the 2023 Alaska Healthcare Workforce Analysis, Alaska would become a "party state," enabling:

- Prospective nurse applicants to remain in Alaska and practice under a new multistate license.
- Nurses already holding a multistate license from one of the 43 other U.S. jurisdictions in the compact to practice in Alaska immediately, without undergoing a separate licensure process.

Surveys from 2019 and 2023 also indicate that 92 percent of Alaska-licensed nurses support joining the NLC, recognizing that it helps address our annual need for over 1,350 new nursing recruits, despite graduating only about 325 nurses per year.

This bill does not eliminate or replace Alaska's current nurse licensing pathways. Instead, it supplements them, so certified nurse aides (CNAs), advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), and Alaska-only licensees continue to follow existing licensing options.

The Honorable Gary Stevens

March 7, 2025

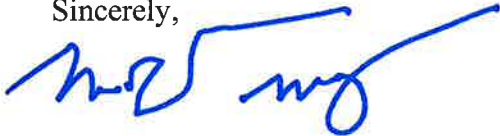
Page 2 of 2

In adopting the Compact, the State would also join the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators, which oversees rulemaking, enforcement, and financial assessments for the Compact. The bill designates the Alaska Board of Nursing to implement the Compact, directing the Board's chair, or a designee, to serve on the Commission. Alaska would further participate in the Compact's coordinated licensure information system, ensuring interstate sharing of licensure and enforcement data. All the while, each party state retains full jurisdiction over its own nursing laws and the standards for public safety.

By joining the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact, Alaska will significantly enhance workforce flexibility and bolster healthcare services throughout the State.

I respectfully request your prompt and favorable consideration of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Dunleavy", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Dunleavy
Governor

Enclosure