

Konrad Jackson

From: Fredenhagen Family <907freds@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 1:24 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce; Sen. Matt Claman; Rep. Andy Josephson
Cc: BoardofNursing@alaska.gov
Subject: Support for HB 131

Dear Senator Claman, Representative Josephson and all of my Alaska Representatives,

My name is Amy Fredenhagen and I have been a registered nurse in Anchorage for the last 28 years. I am writing to respectfully request that you pass and support all legislation supporting the NLC (Nursing Licensure Compact).

This is long overdue in the state of Alaska. I have witnessed recruitment delays in my profession when nurses essentially have to reapply for a license here, rather than allowing their home state licensure immediately count for employment. This was a huge issue during the Covid-19 pandemic and I have also seen it with relocating military wives. Delayed nurse recruitment is wearing out the nurses that are working at the bedside each day and we need more help. The sooner the better!

On a more personal note, I intend to spend more time in the state of Arizona as I care for aging family. I will undoubtedly apply for a compact nursing license in Arizona. This will cost me twice as much money in fees and continuing education. This is a senseless expense that could be eliminated if Alaska was also in the compact licensure. Without Alaska's participation I will eventually have to choose which license I will carry moving forward, quite possibly losing me as a hardworking and experienced nurse in the State of Alaska.

Currently 40 other states have allowed for this compact legislation. It makes no sense that Alaska is dragging its feet. Please pass the legislation so that we can all work together cohesively. That is what the compassionate nursing profession is all about.

Please contact me if you have any further questions.
Thank you for your support.

Amy Fredenhagen, RN, BSN
9007-360-3469
907freds@gmail.com

Konrad Jackson

From: Audrey L. Rasmussen <arasmussen@bartletthospital.org>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 2:38 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce; boardofnursing@alaska.gov; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Rep. Andi Story
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Hello,

I am writing to voice my support for the Nurse License Compact agreement. I am a hiring manager at Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau and have experience first hand the difficulty of hiring nurses and the long length of time it takes for nurses to obtain a nursing license in Alaska. The long length of time to obtain an Alaska license is a huge barrier to hiring experienced nurses from down south. In these times of nursing shortages, I feel is very important to use all the tools we have available. Having a compact license agreement with other states would open up more potential applicants. A delay in starting a new job for up to two months in order to obtain a license is a deal breaker for many nurses. Nursing License Compacts is very common among states down south and I think it is time we allow this in Alaska as well.

Thank you so much for time. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Audrey Rasmussen

Audrey Rasmussen, RN, CCRN

Director of CCU

Bartlett Regional Hospital

arasmussen@bartletthospital.org

907-796-8980

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Konrad Jackson

From: Blessie Eshnaur <blessie@searhc.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 9:19 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Hi, my name is Blessie Eshnaur, and I worked at SEARHC for seven years. I am writing to express my support for the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) legislation, specifically Senate Bill 124. This legislation would greatly benefit nurses in Alaska by providing opportunities to work in other compact states.

I am hoping that you will be able to consider the request and approve the Senate Bill 124.

Thank you, and have a great day.

Blessie Eshnaur BSN, RN

Employee Health Nurse

3100 Channel Drive Suite 300

Juneau, Alaska 99801

Ph: 907-463-4056

Fax: 907-966-8383



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Konrad Jackson

From: Brooke Christensen <brooke.r.christensen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 12:36 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it Concerns,

My name is Brooke Christensen. I am an RN in Anchorage, AK at one of the major hospitals. I work in critical care and have worked in Alaska for 4 years.

I am writing to formally express my support for Bill 124. Having practiced in multiple states throughout my career, I believe Alaska's healthcare landscape presents a unique set of challenges that would be significantly mitigated by joining the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).

Our state experiences extreme census fluctuations that are unlike any other region. In Anchorage, we serve as the critical care hub for the entire state; when rural villages or smaller communities experience a surge in acuity, those patients come to us. This, combined with the predictable but intense influx of land and cruise ship tourists in the summer and the variable "sick seasons" of winter, creates a system that is rarely "stable"—we are either under-capacity or overwhelmed.

The primary hurdle during these surges is the speed of staffing. When a crisis hits, help cannot arrive fast enough under the current individual licensure system. Joining the NLC would remove a significant administrative barrier, allowing qualified nurses to mobilize and support our facilities exactly when patient safety is most at risk.

While I recognize the concerns regarding potential impacts on local unions and the loss of state licensing revenue, I believe the clinical benefits far outweigh the logistical cons. Our top priority must always be patient care and safety. Facilitating a more agile workforce is a vital step toward ensuring Alaskans receive the high-quality care they deserve, regardless of the season.

Sincerely,

Brooke Christensen

417.529.6890

brooke.r.christensen@gmail.com

Konrad Jackson

From: WESLEY YUILL <wesyuill@mtaonline.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 7:55 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Cynthia Yuill and I am writing in support of NLC. I worked as a CNA for many years in the Pioneer Home in Palmer. I feel that it would be beneficial for Alaska if it was easier for nurses who are out of state but would like to come to Alaska if the NLC was in place for them. I do have a son who is a RN who would like to work in Alaska but at this time he has a license from another state. It would make it easier for him to work in Alaska, if Alaska was part of the NLC. I find that it is overwhelmingly supported by the resident nurses and union nurses in Alaska. There would be greater access to more nurses if NLC was in place. Thank you for your consideration. Cynthia Yuill

Konrad Jackson

From: desiree hilborn <dhillborn18@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 7:13 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce; BoardofNursing@alaska.gov; Sen. Jesse Bjorkman; Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Mike Cronk; Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Elvi Gray-Jackson; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. James Kaufman; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Kelly Merrick; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. George Rauscher; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Cathy Tilton; Sen. Löki Tobin; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Jeremy Bynum; Rep. Ashley Carrick; Rep. Mia Costello; Rep. Julie Coulombe; Rep. Maxine Dibert; Rep. Bryce Edgmon; Rep. Ted Eischeid; Rep. Bill Elam; Rep. Zack Fields; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Robyn Frier; Rep. Alyse Galvin; Rep. Andrew Gray; Rep. Carolyn Hall; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot; Rep. Ky Holland; Rep. Nellie Jimmie; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Chuck Kopp; Rep. Kevin McCabe; Rep. Donna Mears; Rep. Genevieve Mina; Rep. Elexie Moore; Rep. Garret Nelson; Rep. David Nelson; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. Justin Ruffridge; Rep. Dan Saddler; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Rebecca Schwanke; Rep. Steve St. Clair; Rep. Will Stapp; Rep. Andi Story; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. Frank Tomaszewski; Rep. Jubilee Underwood; Rep. Sarah Vance
Subject: Senate Bill 124 and the adoption of the Nurse Licensure Compact in Alaska

Dear Members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 124 and the adoption of the Nurse Licensure Compact in Alaska.

As a doctorally prepared nurse practitioner who has worked in rural Alaskan communities including St. Paul Island, Fort Yukon, and Iliamna, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that healthcare staffing delays can have on patient care. In these remote settings, access to timely healthcare is not a convenience. It is a lifeline. When there are delays in bringing in qualified nursing staff, the consequences are immediate and significant, including delayed assessments, interruptions in continuity of care, and increased risk for poor patient outcomes.

Many of these communities are only accessible by air and are already operating with limited healthcare resources. Nurses often serve as the backbone of care delivery, managing everything from acute presentations to chronic disease management and emergency stabilization. When positions remain unfilled due to licensure barriers or delays, existing staff are stretched thin, and patients may be forced to wait for care that simply cannot be delayed.

The Nurse Licensure Compact offers a practical and urgently needed solution. By allowing nurses licensed in other compact states to practice in Alaska without unnecessary administrative delays, the NLC would significantly improve our ability to respond to staffing shortages. This is especially critical in rural and frontier communities where even short gaps in staffing can have serious consequences.

In my experience, delays in staffing have led to situations where care is postponed, patient monitoring is limited, and transfers are required that may have otherwise been avoided with adequate staffing. These are not isolated incidents. They are recurring challenges that directly affect the health and safety of Alaskans living in rural areas.

Additionally, the NLC supports the expansion of telehealth services, which are essential in Alaska. Nurses play a key role in remote monitoring, triage, and care coordination. The ability for nurses to practice across state lines seamlessly would strengthen these services and improve access to care for patients who may otherwise go without.

Failure to pass Senate Bill 124 risks further limiting access to nursing care in the very communities that need it most. It places unnecessary barriers on our ability to recruit qualified professionals and respond effectively to the unique healthcare demands of our state.

I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 124. This legislation is not just about licensure. It is about ensuring that all Alaskans, regardless of where they live, have access to safe, timely, and effective healthcare.

Thank you for your time and your commitment to improving healthcare in Alaska.

Respectfully,
Desiree Hilborn, DNP, MSN Ed., APRN, FNP-C, CNE

20838 Scenic Dr

Chugiak, AK 99567

Konrad Jackson

From: Dorolyn Alper <auto.art@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 3:31 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: State of Alaska
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Greetings,

I wish to show support for HB 131 and SB 124. I want the state of Alaska to join the nursing compact as most other states have already done. Nurses in Alaska do not want to be left behind.

When I lived on the east coast, I was part of the nursing compact. When I moved to Alaska 9 years ago, I was dismayed to find that Alaska was not part of the compact states.

That time is now to support this bill. It makes sense. Please vote to have Alaska join the nursing compact states. Nurses and nursing care are very important parts of the healthcare system. Don't leave us behind. Most other health care workers are already parts of compacts.

I currently work at SEARHC in Juneau as a registered nurse.

Dorolyn Alper, MSN, RN (since 1984)

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Konrad Jackson

From: Jacy Voss <jacys@searhc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 2:28 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: BoardofNursing@Alaska.Gov; Sen. Jesse Kiehl
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Dear Senator Jesse Kiehl and the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

I am writing as a Registered Nurse, who lives and works here in Juneau at SEARHC, to urge you to support legislation that would bring Alaska into the **Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC)**.

Joining the NLC would:

- **Expand access to care** by allowing qualified nurses from other compact states to practice in Alaska without unnecessary delays.
- **Strengthen our healthcare workforce** during staffing shortages, emergencies, and in rural or underserved areas.
- **Improve continuity of care** for Alaskans who receive telehealth services from out-of-state providers.
- **Reduce administrative burdens** for nurses who wish to serve our communities.

Thirty-nine states have already joined the NLC, and Alaska risks falling behind in recruiting and retaining skilled nurses if we do not act. The NLC maintains rigorous licensing standards and safeguards to ensure patient safety while increasing flexibility for healthcare delivery.

I respectfully ask that you **support and advocate for Alaska's adoption of the NLC** in this legislative session. Our patients, communities, and healthcare system will benefit greatly from this step forward.

Thank you for your time, service, and commitment to the health of Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Jacy Voss, RN

Juneau, AK

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Konrad Jackson

From: Jay Stanley <nijota@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 3:33 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: Sen. Forrest Dunbar; Rep. Andrew Gray; boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Gentle Readers:

Please make this happen. As you know, 92% of Alaska-licensed nurses want Alaska to join the NLC. I am one of them.

Jay T. Stanley, RN

AK RN 25931

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Konrad Jackson

From: J <TorkSCA@proton.me>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 2:43 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Welp, once again, there is legislation in about bringing Alaska into the national nursing compact. In which nearly every state participates. It's been presented for years, and keeps getting rejected. Honestly, I'm keeping this short because I know most of you probably won't read this or do anything other than what king pedophile tells you. The national nursing compact is valuable because nurses from any state in the compact can go and work in another state in the compact without having to spend weeks to months waiting on a nursing license. Covid should have driven this point home more than anything, but again, I'm not really sure what governments do other than show up and make speeches at this point. And the ones who've been against it are non-medical unions last I checked.

The myth that Alaska being in the compact will take jobs away from Alaska nurses is a joke. If anything, it may get more here. Because many I know who, like myself, had always thought about going to Alaska, are not going to get a license unless they know they have the travel contract. Being in the compact means more nurses can come up to fill voids, work contracts, experience the state, and maybe relocate. Doesn't always happen, but I know many who have. As it stands, it's already hard to keep nurses here because the pay is bad, and the conditions are bad. Travel contracts pay more, which means you're more likely to have those positions filled more frequently if Alaska is in the compact. Then, y'all just have to figure out where to house everyone.

I'm an Alaska resident and Paramedic/Nurse. I've worked in several different locations around the state doing ICU, ER, acute care, cath lab. Currently back to working as a travel nurse around the lower 48 and Hawaii.

Jay

Konrad Jackson

From: Kate Myer <rnkatee@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2025 8:49 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce; boardofnursing@alaska.gov;
Rep. Kevin McCabe; Sen. Mike Shower
Subject: Nurse compact licensure

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my support for Alaska to join the Nurse Licensure Compact. I have been an RN and now an APRN in this state for 25 years. We are in a crisis! Our numbers are declining over all the median age of a nurse in Alaska is increasing. We nurses have asked Multiple!! times for our representatives to vote in favor of HB131 and SB124. I fail to understand what the hold up is here. This measure needs to be passed.

Respectfully,

Kate Myer Family Nurse Practitioner

Konrad Jackson

From: Smith, Kelly E <ksmith@carenethealth.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 1:59 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: BoardofNursing@Alaska.Gov
Subject: NLC legislation – Senate Bill 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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I'm excited to see the prospect of Alaska joining the NLC. Not only will this provide increased access of care by allowing nurses more mobility to assist in underserved areas; it will also reduce delay of care by avoiding the lengthy process of re-licensing nurses that are already licensed in other states. In times of emergencies, NLC nurses will be able to provide assistance in those states with no licensing delay. Being part of NLC will also make hiring easier for administrators since it is a national database of nurses. As a nurse if you are competent to work in Texas, then same standards should be met in any state. Each license I hold, asks the same standard competency questions. I'm a telehealth nurse so I hold a lot of licenses. I understand Alaska has more intricate needs regarding healthcare due to the vast rural areas which makes joining the NLC even more important for access of care. I look forward to seeing this come to fruition. Sincerely, Kelly

Kelly Smith RN

Care Advisor

O: +1 877-422-2660 | **C:** +1 706-969-9712

Carenet Health 

Konrad Jackson

From: Kimberly LaForce <laforcekimberly714@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 4:41 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Cc: Senate Labor and Commerce; BoardofNursing@alaska.gov
Subject: "Support for HB 131 and SB 124"

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

My name is Kimberly LaForce RN, BSN, MS Narrative Medicine, LNC and I am writing in support of the State of Alaska joining the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).

I have been a registered nurse for over eighteen years and am currently licensed as a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New York and the State of Alaska. I have invested eight years of my life learning and practicing nursing science, and I could not be more devoted to my profession and its mission to protect and advocate for our patients. In the American healthcare system, the role of a nurse is uniquely designed for these roles, and to be a safeguard against institutionalized medical abuses as has no doubt happened in the past.

The word "patient" means one who waits. My career is devoted to waiting, assessing, explaining, educating and sometimes accompanying our patients through complex and challenging medical issues. I have witnessed a major transformation in the healthcare industry, mainly the transition from public led interests to that of corporate interests as the health systems relies more firmly on medical science and corporate profits to decide the importance and direction of Healthcare investments.

Today, our medical world is hurting, with licensed professionals unfortunately being participants in the recent opioid crisis and largely affected by the chaos of Covid 19. Our patients have grown distrustful of healthcare providers thinking that they too are led solely by corporate interests. This happens at a time when our system has been stressed by public health emergencies like Covid 19 and numerous other food born and infectious disease emergencies. The trifecta of the increased need for senior care, mental health care and the disinvestment in those very services means that social needs are not funded at the appropriate level to mitigate socially derived problems. This is happening when we are also losing access to hospitals and to knowledgeable healthcare professionals within the region. To top this off, AI and technological development threatens to significantly reshape the way we access healthcare without giving clear predictions as to whether they will be improvements to the existing structure.

The state of healthcare affairs, specifically in Alaska is extremely challenging. The state has a different healthcare infrastructure than anywhere else in the United States using a network of small hospitals and plane flights to facilitate emergency care. Alaska is situated in a remote area surrounded by countries that are no longer considered allies of the US. Thus close trade partnerships for healthcare are tough, and running a sustainable healthcare operation brings the combined challenges of additional shipping and freight cost and gaining access to a reliable and educated workforce that is not readily available within the state.

I am currently a resident of Alaska and now have a better understanding of how healthcare contracts and the lack of educated healthcare professionals in the State not only drives up the cost of an already expensive healthcare system, it brings no economic and lasting solutions to the healthcare challenges within the State. The most advanced medical care in this region can be found either in Hawaii or Seattle, both a significant distance away from where Alaskans call home. But we know the care at home is what brings the best healthcare outcomes because positive outcomes for pressing healthcare emergencies , ie cardiac care, neurological and trauma care needs immediate attention at home. As I have worked within our healthcare institutions, I have witnessed how the use of everchanging contract staff often means that we are not all well informed of the unique challenges our patients face within the remote communities they live, and this type of knowledge changes the type of care we give. I think that becoming a member of NLC will mean that more licensed professionals can be allowed to practice and travel to our region from the lower 48 thereby addressing a regional issue with a national solution.

There are States that produce more trained healthcare professionals per capita but sadly Alaska is not one of those States, we simply cannot train all of the healthcare professionals needed to work within the state which is why a program like NLC is a great solution.

Best,
Kimberly LaForce RN
Laforcekimberly714@gmail.com

Konrad Jackson

From: Kimberly Robson <krobson@alaska.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 10:30 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce; boardofnursing@alaska.gov;
Sen. Bert Stedman; Rep. Rebecca Himschoot
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Kimberly Robson

I am writing to support the Nurse License Compact. I am an Alaskan-licensed nurse working at a rural hospital. We need more nurses to care for our aging population. It would be easier for nurses to travel and move to Alaska with the compact nursing license.

Konrad Jackson

From: Kimberly Robson <massagerobson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 4:13 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Cc: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

I, Kimberly Robson RN, of Petersburg, AK am writing to support the NLC because I think that Alaska is an appealing place to work and it would attract more nurses. It would make the current staff experience less burnout and have safe patient ratios. Thank you for your time.

Kimberly Robson RN

Konrad Jackson

From: Leann Drake <ldrake@sphosp.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 9:04 AM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: 'boardofnursing@alaska.gov'
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

Dear Members of the House and Senate Labor and Commerce Committees,

My name is LeAnn Drake, and I am writing in **support of HB 131 and SB 124** to adopt the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) in Alaska.

I am a registered nurse with over a decade of experience working across both inpatient and outpatient settings here in Alaska. In my role, I have seen firsthand how workforce challenges and access to care impact both healthcare teams and the patients we serve.

The NLC represents a practical, forward-moving solution that helps remove unnecessary barriers to bringing qualified nurses into practice where they are needed most, while still maintaining Alaska's standards for nursing practice and patient safety. It provides an important tool to strengthen workforce flexibility, improve access to care, and support healthcare delivery across our state, especially in rural communities.

Alaska faces unique geographic and workforce challenges, and adopting the NLC is a meaningful step toward addressing those realities in a responsible and effective way.

I respectfully encourage you to support these bills and help move Alaska forward in strengthening our healthcare workforce.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Respectfully,
LeAnn Drake, RN
South Peninsula Hospital
Outpatient Clinical Educator
W: 907-226-5608; x5608

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Konrad Jackson

From: Lisa Terry <LTerry1@searhc.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 3:45 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce
Cc: Senate Labor and Commerce; boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124--- Want to join the NLC

My name is Lisa Terry, RN, BSN, MSN.

I work at SEARHC in Sitka, Alaska.

As a nurse of 37 years, 8 of which I was a traveling nurse, the amount of money and time each hospital has had to invest in me going to their organization if they were not a member of the NLC was enormous over the years.

Being in a Compact Nursing License State keeps all the same standards which are set very high. In the non-compact States I noticed a more non-professional, non-patient care centered practice with relaxed standards.

It is important for the nursing profession to unite as function as a whole, rather than have a different set of rules and standards, plus when looking for nurses to hire, many will not even submit an application because of the headaches in getting an additional license, with additional fees
I fully support the HB 131 and SB 124--- Want Alaska to join the NLC.

Lisa Terry RN,MSN

Employee Health Nurse

P: 907.966.8943 F: 907.966.8383

222 Tongass Drive, Sitka, AK 99835 | searhc.org



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Konrad Jackson

From: Board, Nursing (CED sponsored) <boardofnursing@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 3:07 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: FW: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

From: Megan Farrow <meganfarrow1279@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 2:10 PM
To: House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov
Cc: Board, Nursing (CED sponsored) <boardofnursing@alaska.gov>
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Megan Farrow, and I am writing to support HB 131 and SB 124. I currently hold both an RN and MSN in Nursing Education, and I strongly support joining the NLC. I currently work for Nightingale College educating future nurses, many of whom live here in Alaska. I am also starting my doctorate as a Nurse Practitioner, specializing in mental health, in May of 2026.

I moved to Alaska in 2020 to help open a nursing program for Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage, Alaska. However, the licensing process was a huge hindrance for me. After careful consideration, I did decide to take the position, but I remember thinking that with Alaska's current nursing shortage, this process should be made easier.

We already are at a disadvantage, because many people want to vacation in Alaska but not necessarily live here. Therefore, why are we not working to make nursing in Alaska more appealing? In addition to joining the NLN, we should be advertising that we do have nursing unions, and while other states might not take care of their healthcare workers, we believe in supporting nurses here.

Do you want more nurses to come to Alaska? They will come if you are providing the things nurses are looking for. One of those things is an easier licensing process. Joining the NLC is a good first step to improving the nursing shortage in our state.

As a nurse and Alaskan, I fully support HB 131 and SB 134, and I hope you will also consider supporting your Alaska nurses by voting yes.

--

Thank you,
Megan Farrow MSN, RN, SANE

Konrad Jackson

From: Patricia Payne <patricia.payne1994@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 3:26 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce; boardofnursing@alaska.gov; Sen. Robert Yundt; Rep. Jubilee Underwood
Subject: Support for HB131 and SB 124

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Re: Support for House Bill 131 and Senate Bill 124 – Nurse Licensure Compact
Hearing Date: Friday, March 27, 2026

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature,

My name is Patricia Payne, I am a locally grown nurse practitioner providing both medical and behavioral health care, including treatment for substance use disorders through True North Recovery around the state. I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill (HB) 131 and Senate Bill (SB) 124 and the adoption of the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) in Alaska.

Through my work caring for Alaskan patients—including those in rural and underserved communities—I have seen firsthand the ongoing challenges related to access to care, particularly in behavioral health and substance use treatment. Many patients face long wait times, limited provider availability, and significant geographic barriers that delay or prevent them from receiving timely care.

HB 131/SB124 represents a practical and impactful solution to help address these gaps. By allowing registered nurses to hold a multistate license, Alaska can expand its ability to recruit and retain qualified nursing professionals. This is especially important in behavioral health settings, where staffing shortages can directly affect patient safety, continuity of care, and recovery outcomes.

The need is particularly urgent in the area of substance use disorder treatment. Access to consistent, skilled nursing support is essential for patients navigating withdrawal management, medication-assisted treatment, and long-term recovery. The Nurse Licensure Compact would help reduce delays in onboarding qualified nurses and allow healthcare systems to respond more quickly to workforce shortages.

While the compact primarily applies to registered nurses and not yet fully to advanced practice nurses, its adoption is an important step toward modernizing licensure and strengthening Alaska's healthcare system as a whole.

In summary, House Bill 131 and Senate Bill 124 will improve access to care, support Alaska's healthcare workforce, and enhance our ability to meet the growing behavioral health and substance use treatment needs of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation and for your commitment to the health and well-being of Alaskans.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Payne, APRN, FNP-C, PMHNP-BC
Wasilla, AK

Konrad Jackson

From: Rebecca Peterson <rebeccajpeterson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2026 7:35 PM
To: House Labor and Commerce; Senate Labor and Commerce
Cc: BoardofNursing@alaska.gov
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124 YES to pass

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I am in full support of passing and approving the legislation to allow Alaska to be part of the Nursing License Compact States.

This is very important to me as I am doing nurse traveling in and out of the state and also our hospitals that I work at in Alaska desperately need enough qualified staff.

Konrad Jackson

From: Tracey Dolecki <tbosshardt26@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 4:23 PM
To: Senate Labor and Commerce
Subject: Support for HB 131 and SB 124

To whom it may concern,

My name is Tracey Dolecki, I have been a registered nurse in Alaska for 14 years. I am writing in support of Alaska joining the Nurse Licensure Compact. Every few years I work in Arizona and must maintain two licenses. Joining the NLC would simplify this for me and the nurses who travel here. We need travel nurses in Alaska to serve our population safely, joining the NLC would help nursing rise to meet those needs.

Thank you,
Tracey Dolecki RN, BSN

Sent from my iPhone



3601 C Street, 1420 | Anchorage, AK 99503
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aarp.org/ak | alaska@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpalaska
facebook.com/aarpak

March 12, 2025

Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB124 Support

Dear Members of the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee:

Alaska faces pressing health care challenges not the least of which is an aging population driving both higher healthcare need and a shrinking healthcare workforce.

Alaska programs produce just 324 graduates to fill the need for 1,500 nurse openings annually, which will grow to more than 5,000 by 2030 as our population and healthcare workforce ages.

We can help address the access to care challenges of an aging population and healthcare workforce shortage by embracing healthcare multi-state licensing compacts to diminish barriers to recruiting licensed providers from other states.

The nursing shortage negatively impacts healthcare access, drives up healthcare costs, and threatens the health of our growing senior population. This risks the health of Alaska's elders and adds unnecessary stress for family caregivers.

AARP Alaska supports SB124 to enable Alaska to join the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact and thus improve access to healthcare through increased nursing workforce capacity. On behalf of the fastest growing senior population in the nation and our 77,000 AARP Alaska members, and for the benefit of all Alaskans, we thank you for your leadership on this important health security issue for older Alaskans.

Respectfully,
Marge Stoneking
Advocacy Director, AARP Alaska



March 18, 2024

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 105
Juneau AK, 99801
Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

RE: AHHA Supports Senate Bill 124 – Nurse Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Committee Members,

For over 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and a growing number of healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA members play an invaluable role, both as community providers and essential employers, in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

AHHA supports SB 124, which would allow Alaska to align with a vast majority of the country and modernize its licensing process through the nurse licensure compact (NLC). The NLC is license reciprocity for nurses, and represents a critical step for improving nursing shortages, delays in the nurse licensure process, and access to care in Alaska. The NLC is used by 43 states and jurisdictions across the country, allowing qualified nurses to practice across state lines with a single license. This reciprocity has been safely in use for almost 20 years.

Given its wide use, the NLC is mainstream and efficient. Again, joining the NLC means aligning with a vast majority of the country in following uniform practice standards that will modernize Alaska's licensing of nurses, taking the process from months to a matter of days.

One of the primary reasons the NLC was founded 20 years ago was to address the growing demand for nursing services in rural and underserved areas. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in desperate need of nurses across all of Alaska today. Alaska is projected to have the highest nurse vacancies in the United States by 2030 with over 5,000 openings and a 22% shortfall. Nurses are aging and Alaska has too few graduates to replace them. Alaska produces just 324 statewide nursing graduates—less than a quarter of what is needed in our state.

With the growing need for healthcare services in our population, employee churn, and exits or retirements from the workforce, the healthcare industry in Alaska must fill 9,430 job openings in healthcare each year, including over 1,400 nurse openings. By making it more efficient for nurses to obtain licensure in Alaska, the NLC will immediately increase the pool of qualified candidates that can fill critical vacancies quicker.

Advancing Healthcare for Alaska

www.alaskahha.org

1007 W 3rd Ave, Suite 301 | Anchorage, AK 99501
426 Main St. | Juneau, AK 99801



It is important to remember that within the NLC reciprocity framework, the way nurses practice in Alaska will not change one iota. This is because the Alaska Board of Nursing will continue to maintain full control of the scope of practice and enforcement, meaning the only thing that will change is the process for obtaining a license, which will become faster, more efficient, and safer.

The NLC also benefits our military families. Alaska is home to thousands of military members on assignment, many with spouses and family who are nurses. Joining the NLC will help these individuals seamlessly transition into our healthcare workforce.

Supporting reciprocity and joining compacts with other states is nothing new for Alaska and most certainly not an affront to our sovereignty. Alaska has been a member of at least 32 multistate compacts across several industries, and the NLC in particular offers an opportunity to enhance recruitment and retention of nurses. While “growing our own” is a crucial workforce strategy, it will take years to yield meaningful results with the shortages we are experiencing. Therefore, we should do everything in our power to welcome outside nurses to our state.

In closing, addressing workforce shortages in the healthcare sector requires a multifaceted approach with some strategies being long term and others being immediate. Joining the NLC is an immediate strategy that will help improve nursing shortages in urban and rural Alaska, delays in the nurse licensure process, and access to care across our state. Please pass SB 124.

Thank you for considering this request and for your commitment to advancing healthcare for Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Kosin'.

Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO



March 26, 2026

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair
Senate Labor and Commerce Committee

Re: Senate Bill 124, Nursing: Licensure; Multistate Compact (version 34-GS1160\A)

Dear Chair Bjorkman, and members of the Senate Labor and Commerce Committee,

The Alaska Chamber (the Chamber) writes to support Senate Bill 124, an Act relating to the licensure of nursing professionals; relating to a multistate nurse licensure compact; and providing for an effective date.

The Alaska Chamber is the state's largest statewide business advocacy organization. Our mission is to promote a healthy business environment in Alaska. The Chamber has more than 700 members and represents businesses of all sizes and industries from across the state, representing 58,000 Alaskan workers and \$4.6 billion in wages.

The Chamber has a formal policy position to support joining the multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). According to the Alaska Chamber's 2024 statewide public opinion, we learned that 86% of Alaskans also support joining the NLC. There was broad consensus among every demographic in the state, among party lines, among geographic boundaries, and even among union and private sector employees.

The NLC is an agreement between states that allows nurses to have a single license to practice in any state that is a member of the compact. There are currently 41 states and two territories that participate in the compact, and it's the Chamber's hope Alaska becomes the 42nd.

Alaska is projected to have the highest nurse vacancies in the United States by 2030 with over 5,000 openings. The healthcare system is struggling to keep up with demand for nurses, which requires filling over 1,500 job openings annually. By allowing increased efficiency without lowering standards for nurses to obtain licensure in Alaska, the NLC will increase the pool of qualified candidates to fill critical vacancies, at a time when we need it most.

The healthcare sector outpaces all other sectors in Alaska in attracting nonresidents that ultimately become residents to our state. Joining the NLC will reduce delays in the licensure process, which are a known barrier for nurses who are looking to start their careers in or move to Alaska. Lastly, Alaska is also home to thousands of active duty and transitioning military members, many with spouses and family who are licensed nurses. By joining the NLC, it will help these individuals transition into our healthcare workforce.

In closing, the Chamber supports SB124 and encourages this committee to pass this straightforward and good for business bill. Thank you for considering the Alaska Chamber's comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kati Capozzi'.

Kati Capozzi
President and CEO



2550 Denali Street, Suite 530
Anchorage, AK 99503



Office (907) 278-2722



www.alaskachamber.com
info@alaskachamber.com

Bartlett Regional Hospital

3260 Hospital Drive, Juneau, Alaska 99801

907.796.8900

www.bartlethospital.org

March 24, 2025

Senate Labor & Commerce Committee,

My name is Kim McDowell, and I am the Chief Nursing Officer/Chief Operating Officer for Bartlett Regional Hospital. I am writing this letter to let you know nurse licensure continues to be a top legislative priority for us, and I ask that you take up HB 131 and SB 124 right away this session.

It currently takes months to get a nurse licensed in Alaska, this not only hurts our ability to deliver healthcare, but it also hurts our patients. At Bartlett I have had to put a cap on the services we provide to patients because we simply do not have the nursing staff to open units fully. Recently this has affected our behavioral health unit, which decreases the access to mental health care which is already strained in Alaska. At a time when hospitals are being asked to do more for those in crisis, we are doing less because of the lack of nursing. Having Alaska be part of the NLC would ease that burden and eliminate the sometimes, 4-6 month wait for a nurse to get licensed in Alaska.

Alaska is expected to have the biggest shortfall of registered nurses in the entire country by 2030. Our slow, broken licensing system does us no favors. The rest of the country has moved toward license reciprocity through the nurse licensure compact. Nurses will be able to get to work in a matter of days, not months, and there is absolutely no ceding of control or sovereignty, as the way we practice nursing in Alaska will remain exactly the same and the Board of Nursing will maintain complete local control. I will also add that any nurse that comes to work for a hospital, has to have competencies signed off that they are competent to perform all duties as assigned related to nursing. So, the argument of safety related to NLC is null and void.

If you ask nurses directly, they overwhelmingly support license reciprocity and Alaska joining the rest of the country in the nurse licensure compact. I can tell you the nurses I talk with in the halls and between shifts are completely supportive of the nurse licensure compact, and actually are very frustrated that NLC has not happened already. I am not surprised the recent survey conducted in November by the Alaska Board of Nursing and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing of all nurses actively licensed in Alaska shows Alaska nurses are strongly in favor of Alaska joining the nurse licensure compact. The 92% overall support rate, including an 85% support rate from nurses who identified as a union member, is clear evidence of what I hear from nurses at Bartlett Regional Hospital.

Attracting more nurses to our state and getting them to work faster is exactly what we need. Our licensing system does not work. The rest of the United States has found a better way to license nurses and nearly every state in our union does it. It is time for Alaska to do the same.

During the COVID pandemic, nurses were told they were hero's, they were celebrated, and honored for sacrifices made, and being on the frontlines with, at the time, a virus that had many unknowns. Nurses had to be everything to their patients. Family was not allowed to visit, and nurses found themselves holding the hand of their dying patient, while facetiming their family so that the last I love yous and goodbyes could be said. Now we are at a time in which the heroes have been forgotten and are asked to work harder with less. How much more sacrifice should we ask our nurses to make?

Please take up and pass HB 131 and SB 124 as soon as possible. Thanks for your consideration and I am happy to talk directly with you if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kim McDowell, MSN, RN, CEN
Chief Operating Officer/Chief Nursing Officer
Bartlett Regional Hospital
kmcowell@bartletthospital.org
(907) 796-8310 Office
(907) 723-0521 Cell

CC: House Labor & Commerce Committee, House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS

Juneau Office

P.O. Box 110806
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Fax: 907.465.2974

May 6th, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Zack Fields & the Honorable Carolyn Hall
Chair, House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 24 & 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Letter of Support for SB 124 & HB 131: NURSING: LICENSURE; MULTISTATE
COMPACT

Dear Chairs Bjorkman, Fields, and Hall,

The Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners (“board”) supports SB 124 and HB 131: Nursing:
Licensure; Multistate Compact.

Though regulation over the licensing and practice of nursing is outside of our board’s purview, we do recognize the nursing shortage in the State of Alaska and trust the opinion of our fellow board – the Alaska Board of Nursing – that the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is the right move for Alaska, just as we’d hope other professional licensing boards would defer to our expertise when it comes to the regulation of veterinary practice in the state.

Additionally, this legislation does have an indirect positive impact on all professional licensing programs within the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing because it will increase efficiencies within the division. The Nurse licensing team is the division’s largest licensing team, by far. The NLC will reduce that team’s need to process redundant licensure applications by thousands, according to the department, which will allow division resources to be better allocated across all of its 43 licensing programs and therefore helps all professional licensees.

For these reasons, we support these bills and urge the Legislature to hear and pass the NLC bills.

Sincerely,

Robert Gerlach, VMD
Chair, Alaska Board of Veterinary Examiners



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2550
Fax: 907.465.2974

May 5, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Zach Fields and the Honorable Carolyn Hall
Co-Chairs, House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 24 & 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: Support for SB 124 & HB 131: NURSING: LICENSURE; MULTISTATE COMPACT

Dear Chairs Bjorkman, Fields, and Hall,

The Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapy supports SB 124 and HB 131.

Marital and Family Therapists have a long-standing professional relationship with RNs and LPNs, and value their expertise and collaboration. We trust our sister board's (the Alaska Board of Nursing's) determination that the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is essential to address the nursing shortage and lack of access to healthcare for Alaskans in the most direct way, without giving up any state sovereignty, public safety measures, or Alaska laws. We support the NLC because it's the tool they've determined they need, just as we'd hope they'd do the same for us when it comes to regulation of Marital and Family Therapy. Alaska needs to do everything it can to fill nursing vacancies to improve access to health care for Alaskans. We support the ability for nurses to join this compact to minimize administrative workload and strengthen Alaska's healthcare workforce.

We urge the Legislature to hear and pass SB 124/HB 131.

Sincerely,

Noah Shields
Chair, Board of Marital and Family Therapy



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

BOARD OF NURSING

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
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Fax: 907.465.2974

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman, Chair
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Zach Fields, Co-Chair
The Honorable Carolyn Hall, Co-Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 24 & 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801

RE: **Support for HB 131 and SB 124 – Nurse Licensure Compact**

Dear Senator Bjorkman, Representative Fields, and Representative Hall,

As the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) celebrates its 25th anniversary, **the Alaska Board of Nursing is excited to support SB 124 and HB 131**, an Act relating to the licensure of nursing professionals; relating to a multistate nurse licensure compact; and providing for an effective date.

Enacted in 2000, the NLC is the longest-standing and most well-vetted professional licensure compact in the nation and is currently enacted in 43 jurisdictions. NLC legislation has also been introduced in an additional nine jurisdictions this year. The NLC supports over 2.5 million nurses, who meet 13 uniform licensing requirements, to practice freely across state lines. In its 25 years of existence, no state has left the compact. For the last five years, the Alaska Board of Nursing has voted unanimously to support joining the multistate nurse licensure compact (NLC). The Board of Nursing conducted surveys in 2019 and 2024 of all Alaska-licensed nurses, and both showed that 92% of nurses support Alaska joining the NLC.

The NLC is recognized nationally, yet the states retain full authority and autonomy over nursing practice within their borders. The goals of the NLC align with the Alaska Board of Nursing's mission to protect the public. The NLC has many benefits for Alaska, including increased portability of nurses, the increased access to conduct telehealth work, and the increased access for nursing faculty. The NLC is crucial during times of disaster or nursing shortages, as it allows a nurse to quickly get to work without licensure delays. The NLC allows us to maintain our current license options while increasing access to healthcare and filling vacancies across the state of Alaska. For more information, visit the board's NLC webpage:

ProfessionalLicense.alaska.gov/BoardofNursing/NurseLicensureCompact

The Alaska Board of Nursing lends its full support to HB 131 and SB 124, and asks that your committees hear and support these important bills.

Sincerely,

Danette M Schloeder

Danette Schloeder DNP, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS
Chair, Alaska Board of Nursing



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY AND
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

P.O. Box 110806
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April 18, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, Alaska 99801

The Honorable Zach Fields
Chair, House Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 24
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Bjorkman and Representative Fields,

The Alaska Board of Physical Therapy and Occupation Therapy supports SB 124 and HB 131, Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). Physical therapy and occupational therapy have a long-standing professional relationship with RNs and LPNs and value their expertise and collaboration. NLC addresses the nursing shortage and lack of access to healthcare for Alaskans in the most direct way, without giving up any state sovereignty, public safety measures, or Alaska laws. Alaska needs to do everything it can to fill nursing vacancies to improve access to health care for Alaskans. We support the ability for nurses to join this compact to minimize administrative workload and strengthen Alaska's healthcare workforce. We urge the Legislature to pass SB 124 or HB 131.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Valerie Phelps

D301944DE99A4E1...

Valerie A. Phelps, PT, ScD
Chair, Board of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy

Dear Jesse Kiehl and Sara Hannan,

My name is Courtney Taber, and I am writing in strong support of the state of Alaska joining the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). I am a licensed nurse and currently serve as the Director of Surgical Services at Bartlett Regional Hospital in Juneau. Prior to moving to Alaska, I was a compact-licensed nurse while working in Colorado, and I experienced firsthand the many benefits the NLC brings to both nurses and the communities they serve.

While in Colorado, I was able to use my compact license on a monthly basis to serve the Four Corners region of the Southwest. The flexibility the compact provided allowed me to care for patients across multiple states, making a meaningful impact on families in rural and underserved areas. It was an incredibly rewarding experience that simply wouldn't have been possible without the multistate license.

In contrast, when I relocated to Alaska, the process of obtaining my state nursing license was both lengthy and frustrating. It took nearly four months and countless emails to navigate the administrative hurdles and finally receive my license. This kind of delay not only burdens qualified professionals but also delays their ability to provide much-needed care—something that our state cannot afford given our ongoing healthcare staffing challenges.

Alaska faces persistent nursing shortages, especially in remote areas. Joining the NLC would reduce barriers for out-of-state nurses, improve recruitment and retention, and strengthen our capacity to deliver timely and effective care. It would also support telehealth initiatives and improve emergency response capabilities throughout the state.

As a healthcare leader and proud Alaskan, I urge you to support legislation that would bring Alaska into the Nurse Licensure Compact. The benefits to our patients, providers, and healthcare systems are both significant and long overdue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Courtney Taber, MSN (c)
Director of Surgical Services
Bartlett Regional Hospital – Juneau, Alaska



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

Anchorage

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March 13, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman
Chair, Senate Labor and Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Bjorkman,

On behalf of the Alaska Department of Health, I am writing to express strong support for SB124 and urge you to schedule a hearing to advance this critical legislation that would allow Alaska to join the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).

Public Health continues to face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining public health nurses across the state. Enacting the NLC in our state is a critical step in ensuring immediate access to highly qualified nurses during emergencies, whether a pandemic, natural disaster, or other crisis. By eliminating barriers and allowing nurses to cross state lines without delay, this legislation will strengthen our ability to leverage the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), expediting the deployment of much-needed medical personnel.

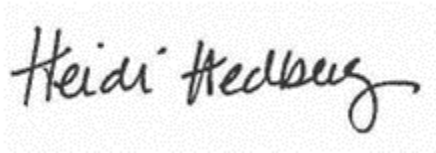
Beyond emergencies, the NLC supports public health nursing in routine work such as immunization outreach, tuberculosis investigations, maternal-child health services, well child services, and health education, ensuring a flexible and adaptable workforce. These critical public health nurses also serve as a connector between rural communities and the broader healthcare system, ensuring that all residents have access to services. By delivering these types of preventive care public health nurses significantly reduce the burden on emergency services and hospitals — resulting in healthier communities and lower healthcare costs.

As of March 2025, 42 U.S. states and territories have enacted legislation to join the NLC, enabling nurses to practice across state lines with a single multistate license. Alaska must act now to remain competitive in attracting top-tier nursing talent and ensuring our communities receive the care they need.

Senator Bjorkman
Letter of Support SB 124
March 13, 2025
Page 2 of 2

I urge you to prioritize and advance SB124 without delay. The health and well-being of Alaskans depend on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Hedberg". The signature is written in a cursive style and is set against a light gray, textured rectangular background.

Heidi Hedberg
Commissioner

Enclosures: Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development:
[*NLC Facts & Joining the NLC Report \(March 2023\)*](#)
National Council of State Boards of Nursing:
https://www.ncsbn.org/public-files/NLC_Map.pdf

cc: Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office





THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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March 24, 2026

Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Thomas B. Stewart Building 105
Juneau, AK 99801
Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Chair Bjorkman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Alaska Department of Health, I am writing to express strong support for SB 124 and urge you to schedule a hearing to advance this critical legislation that would allow Alaska to join the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).

Alaska is facing a severe and growing nursing workforce crisis. By 2030, our state is projected to have the highest percentage of nursing vacancies in the United States, with over 5,000 unfilled positions—representing an estimated staggering 22-25% shortfall. According to the Alaska Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (March 2023 report), nearly one in four nursing positions will remain vacant unless immediate action is taken. Public Health continues to face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining public health nurses across the state. This legislation would create a more streamlined and efficient licensing process, allowing highly qualified nurses from other compact states to begin working in Alaska without unnecessary delays.

Enacting the Nurse Licensure Compact in our state is a critical step in ensuring immediate access to highly qualified nurses during emergencies, whether a pandemic, natural disaster, or other crisis. By eliminating barriers and allowing nurses to cross state lines without delay, this legislation will strengthen our ability to leverage the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), expediting the deployment of much-needed medical personnel. Together, the NLC and EMAC will fortify our healthcare system, enabling a faster, more effective response precisely when our communities are most vulnerable.

As of March 2026, **43** U.S. states and territories have enacted legislation to join the NLC, enabling nurses to practice across state lines with a single multistate license. Alaska must act now to remain competitive in attracting top-tier nursing talent to ensure our communities receive the care they need and to be prepared for future large-scale emergencies.

In Alaska's application to the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), Alaska committed to joining the NLC by 12/31/27. Not advancing NLC legislation puts at jeopardy funding associated with the NLC policy commitment and puts Alaska's current and future RHTP funding grants at risk. If Alaska does not achieve this policy commitment, some RHTP funds will be clawed back, and Alaska's future RHTP fund allotments will likely be reduced.

I urge you to prioritize and advance SB 124 without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Hedberg". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed over a light gray map of Alaska.

Heidi Hedberg
Commissioner, Alaska Department of Health

Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development: [NLC Facts & Joining the NLC Report \(March 2023\)](#)

National Council of State Boards of Nursing: https://www.ncsbn.org/public-files/NLC_Map.pdf



(907) 458-5300 Phone
(907) 458-5324 Fax
www.foundationhealth.org
1650 Cowles Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman, Chair
Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Support for SB 124 – Nurse Licensure Compact

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Foundation Health Partners (FHP), we write in strong support of SB 124, legislation to adopt the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) in Alaska.

FHP serves Interior Alaska as the sole community hospital, skilled nursing facility and has 19 Primary & Specialty Care Clinics. We are on the front lines of addressing persistent and growing healthcare workforce shortages. The need for timely access to qualified nurses is critical to maintaining safe, high-quality care for our patients across Alaska.

SB 124 would allow Alaska to join 43 other states and jurisdictions that participate in the Nurse Licensure Compact, enabling qualified nurses to practice across state lines with a single multistate license. This system of license reciprocity has been in place nationally for nearly two decades and has proven to be both safe and effective.

For Alaska, the benefits are immediate and significant:

- **Addressing Workforce Shortages:** Alaska is projected to have the highest nurse vacancy rate in the nation by 2030, with more than 5,000 openings and an estimated 22% shortfall.
- **Expanding the Workforce Pipeline:** Alaska produces approximately 300 nursing graduates annually—far below the level needed to meet demand.
- **Faster Hiring and Deployment:** The NLC modernizes licensure by reducing processing times from months to days, allowing healthcare providers to fill critical vacancies more quickly.
- **Improving Access to Care:** Increased workforce mobility will help ensure patients receive timely care.

Importantly, participation in the NLC does not change Alaska's standards for nursing practice. As outlined in SB 124, the Alaska Board of Nursing retains full authority over scope of practice, discipline, and enforcement, ensuring continued protection of patient safety and public health.

For healthcare providers like FHP, the current licensure process can delay onboarding of qualified nurses at a time when vacancies directly impact patient care capacity. The NLC provides a practical, immediate solution while longer-term strategies—such as growing Alaska's own workforce—continue to develop.

Additionally, adopting the NLC will support military families stationed in Alaska by allowing licensed nurse spouses to enter the workforce more quickly, strengthening both our healthcare system and our communities.

Foundation Health Partners respectfully urges the Committee to advance SB 124.

Sincerely,


Shelley Ebenal, CEO


Scott Bell, President


Steve Frank, Treasurer


Karen Perdue, Secretary

Cc: Members of the Interior Delegation



Petersburg
MEDICAL CENTER

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April 11, 2025

Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Chair

Senate Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 105
Juneau AK, 99801
Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

**RE: Petersburg Medical Center Supports Senate Bill 124 – Nurse
Licensure Compact**

Dear Chair Bjorkman and Committee Members,

My name is Jennifer Bryner, and I am the Chief Nursing Officer at Petersburg Medical Center. We are a local, independent 12-bed critical access hospital with an attached 15-bed nursing home located in Southeast Alaska. We have proudly served our community for over 100 years. Petersburg Medical Center supports SB 124.

With our small staff, even a single nurse vacancy significantly impacts our operations. Waiting as little as two weeks for a nurse's license to be processed forces half of our team to work extra shifts, or requires a few nurses to take on 20–35 hours of overtime in that short period. This contributes to burnout, low morale, increased costs, and a heightened risk of patient safety issues.

The multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) is used by 43 states and jurisdictions, allowing qualified nurses to practice across state lines with a single license. This reciprocity has been safely in use for 20 years and offers a helpful tool for improving nursing shortages, delays in nurse licensing, and access to care in Alaska.

The NLC will help us attract talented nurses who want to stay and work in Alaska. It will also help military families by making it easier for spouses to quickly get to work upon relocation to our state.



Thank you for considering this issue. We urge you to pass SB 124 so Alaska can join the rest of the country in recognizing license reciprocity through the NLC.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bryner

Petersburg Medical Center





THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development

STATE MEDICAL BOARD

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2550
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April 21, 2025

The Honorable Senator Jesse Bjorkman, Senate Labor & Commerce Chair
The Honorable Representative Zach Fields, House Labor & Commerce Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Carolyn Hall, House Labor & Commerce Co-Chair
Alaska State Capitol, Rooms 427, 24, and 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Sent via email: Senate.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov, House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov

Re: Statement of Support – SB 124 and HB 131, Nurse Licensure Compact

Dear Chairs Bjorkman, Fields, and Hall, and Members of the Legislature,

At its meeting on April 17, 2025, the State Medical Board voted unanimously in support of Senate Bill 124 and House Bill 131. These bills would allow the Alaska Board of Nursing to join the national Nurse License Compact.

The State Medical Board recognizes nurses as being critical to the health care system in Alaska. Alaska has a significant nursing shortage which is projected to get worse. Joining the Nurse License Compact would give Alaska more opportunities to recruit nurses to Alaska and get them to work quickly.

The Alaska State Medical Board urges you to hear and vote in favor of SB 124 & HB 131.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Brent Taylor", written over a horizontal line.

Brent Taylor, M.D.
Chair