



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health

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House Labor & Commerce Committee
State Capitol Room 124
Juneau, AK 99801
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Chair Sumner and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Alaska Division of Public Health, I am writing in support of HB 149 which will allow Alaska to join the nurse licensure compact (NLC). By 2030, Alaska is projected to have the highest percentage of nursing vacancies in the United States with over 5,000 openings representing a 22% shortfall. Nurses are vital for ensuring access to healthcare in our state, and Alaska currently does not create enough nursing graduates to meet the need.

Public Health continues to experience challenges recruiting and retaining public health nurses statewide. This bill will allow for a more efficient licensing process which will bring nurses to our state to live, work, and meet our populations health care needs more quickly. This is even more important when we need to respond to emergencies and disasters.

This compact has been successful in 39 other states while also providing the same level of safety and oversight.

I urge you to please pass HB 149.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C. Lawton".

Christy Lawton
Acting Director
Division of Public Health