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February 23, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 53

Dear Senator Giessel.

I am writing on behalf of the Alaska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives in support of SB 53, "an act related to advanced practice registered nursing." This bill updates the 34 year old title "advanced nurse practitioner" (ANP) to "advanced practice registered nurse" (APRN) and aligns Alaska statute with a nationwide movement called "The Consensus Model."

Under current Alaska law the title "ANP" includes nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), and certified clinical nurse specialists. Nurse anesthetists are a separate category of clinician. The Consensus Model includes all four specialties under the title "APRN."

The Consensus Model, promulgated by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, seeks uniformity in APRN licensure, accreditation, certification, and education. Uniformity will expedite insurance reimbursement by eliminating confusion about service provider; it will allow APRNs from other states to more easily obtain AK licensure, and vice versa.

Alaska is home to approximately 70 CNMs. In 2013, CNMs attended 31% of vaginal births in the state. When SB 53 becomes law we will continue to launch healthy Alaskan families, just as we have for 34 years.

SB 53 does not change scope of practice. ANPs, including CNMs, and nurse anesthetists will continue to provide the same high quality, safe, accessible care they have provided to Alaskans across the state for 34 years. They will just have a new name: Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN).

Thank you very much for your advocacy on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Heather Palmer, CNM, WHNP 02/23/15

Heather Palmer, CNM, WHNP
President, Alaska Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives