



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development

BOARD OF NURSING

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March 6, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel  
State Capital Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 53

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing to you both as the Chair of the Board of Nursing and as a practicing Advanced Nurse Practitioner. The Board of Nursing supports SB 53, "an act related to advanced practice registered nursing." This bill updates a 34 year old Alaska statute. If passed, the old title "advanced nurse practitioner" (ANP) will be updated with the title "advanced practice registered nurse" (APRN). This change will align Alaska statutes with a nationwide movement called "The APRN Consensus Model."

Under current Alaska law, "advanced nurse practitioner (ANP)" is broadly defined. The specific roles that are included as "advanced nurse practitioner" are not delineated. In regulation, nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, and certified clinical nurse specialists are included under the broad term "advanced nurse practitioner". Nurse anesthetists are identified in a separate regulation. The APRN Consensus Model includes all four advanced practice specialties under the umbrella title "APRN."

The APRN Consensus Model, promulgated by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and more than 50 other national nursing organizations, education accreditation organizations, and certifying bodies seeks uniformity in APRN licensure, accreditation, certification, and education. Uniformity will reduce confusion on the part of patients and families, and will expedite insurance reimbursement by eliminating confusion about service providers. It will also allow APRNs from other states to more easily obtain AK licensure, and vice versa.

Speaking for myself, I have served on the Board of Nursing for 7 years. This experience has provided me an opportunity to attend National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) meetings and conferences. At these meetings, nurse practitioners from the states and territories express agreement that a consistent title would help lessen confusion in the role and function of a nurse practitioner.

The Board of Nursing understands that SB 53 does not change the ANP scope of practice. ANPs 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: APRN.

Thank you very much for your advocacy on this issue. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Denise C Valentine ANP-C*

Denise C. Valentine, ANP, Chair

Alaska Board of Nursing

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