

March 6, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

We are writing as the State-Co Leads for the Alaska Nursing Action Coalition to thank you for sponsoring 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, 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.

SB 53 does not change 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.

The Alaska Nursing Action Coalition is a nurse-led organization formed in 2012 to advocate for nurses and coordinate the work of Alaska nurses as we look for ways to improve the health of all Alaskans. One of the strategies we support is clearing up the confusion that surrounds nursing titles, even among nurses. The use of the APRN designation will align Alaskan Advanced Practice Register Nurse titles with national recommendations and trends, helping to create more efficient and effective collaboration between health care providers, patients and families, and other entities and organizations charged with caring for the health of our communities.

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

Sincerely,


Pat Dooley, BSN, RN, CHPN, MHA


Debbie Thompson, BSN, RN, CNOR

Co-Leads for the Alaska Nursing Action Coalition