



February 26, 2015

Senator Cathy Giessel
State Capitol Room 427
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB 53

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing 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, 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.

As an advanced nurse practitioner (Certified Nurse-Midwife and Family Nurse Practitioner) who is also a health-related business owner, I value the opportunity to create state language that is consistent with emerging national standards for advanced nursing practice. FASDx Services LLC is the referral/coordination hub for the Anchorage Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Diagnostic Team.

Other health professionals and consumers may find the new language more recognizable (i.e. with the RN in the acronym) as relating to nursing practice. We've come a long way since the 1960's when the nurse practitioner role was first developed, and, as one of the early ANPs in Alaska (my ANP # is 108), I have watched as the increasing varieties of educational titles/initials have grown to further confuse folks who are not in our field.

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...and it will be consistent with the rest of the U.S.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marilyn Pierce-Bulger', with the letters 'ANP' written in a smaller font to the right of the signature.

Marilyn Pierce-Bulger, ANP

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