



February 28, 2020

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Senate Health and Social Services Committee
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Chair Senator Wilson and Senate Health & Social Services Committee Members:

As a small provider of life saving dialysis treatments and services, with just two locations in Alaska, we write to request your support of Senate Bill 179, the Nurse Licensure Compact.

We respectfully request adoption of the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact because of the following concerns:

Facility staffing is a challenge at the best of times. With current nursing shortages and the length of time required to process nursing licenses, we continue to be at a disadvantage in our two Anchorage locations. The time it takes to process applications for nursing licenses affects not only day to day operations but future growth that may be needed for improved patient care and more choices in the marketplace. The burden increases on existing staff to cover during necessary life events for all staff. The ability to utilize nurses from other Nurse Licensure Compact states would provide stability for these situations.

Additional strain on the system currently in place includes severe weather, power outages or other disaster-related situations, such as the magnitude 7.1 earthquake in November of 2018. Again these are life events that can impact our clinics and our staff's homes and could impact our ability to provide dialysis staff even when an affected clinic is functional. It is important that the system fosters regular transfer of licensed nursing staff to facilitate the reliable assistance of dialysis nurses coming from other states. For dialysis patients, interruptions and delays in treatment schedules is more than just an inconvenience – it is critical.

We at U.S. Renal Care believe that the adoption of SB 179 will significantly improve the process and regular operations of providing dialysis patient care in Alaska. For these reasons we ask for your support of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Sincerely,

Francine Attrill

Francine Attrill
VP Public and Commercial Reimbursement Policy