



February 27, 2020

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

My name is Brian Norton, and I am a registered nurse and the clinic manager of the Cook Inlet dialysis clinic in Anchorage for Fresenius Kidney Care. Our company provides life-sustaining dialysis services to nearly 400 Alaskans with kidney failure at outpatient clinics in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Soldotna, and Wasilla, and we request your support of Senate Bill 179, the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Staffing our clinics is an ongoing concern with the nursing shortage and the length of time required to process nursing licenses. When I came to Alaska as a traveling nurse, I was lucky. I had ample time to prepare and receive my license before coming to Alaska. However, we have had traveling nurses who submitted their applications for an Alaska license, and it took over a month for the licenses to be processed. Even temporary licenses can take several weeks. We currently employ 36 nurses, and we have 12 openings we are struggling to fill. Currently, the clinic I manage is the only one of our Alaska clinics that is fully staffed, which is why I was able to leave to speak with you today.

Some of our clinics are in areas, such as here and Fairbanks, where we cannot borrow easily from a nearby dialysis clinic to help with staffing like we might be able to do in Anchorage. If nurses give two weeks' notice that they are leaving the clinic due to job change, transferring to another Fresenius location, or any reason whatsoever, a clinic can go from stable staffing to unstable staffing in a very short time. We currently have one nurse who is managing two clinics and is also short-staffed at the facilities so is also doing patient care. Bringing in nurses quickly from other Nurse Licensure Compact states would provide stability for this type of situation.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has strict requirements of registered nurses in the dialysis setting that make it difficult to use traveling nurses or nurses that do not have dialysis experience to help fill in during times of shortages.

- A nurse manager of a dialysis facility must have at least 6 months experience in dialysis and cannot be a contracted employee.
- A charge nurse in a dialysis facility must have at least 12 months of nursing experience and 3 months of dialysis nursing experience.
- A registered nurse in a home dialysis program must have 12 months nursing experience plus at least 3 months experience as a hemodialysis nurse and another 3 months experience as a home dialysis nurse.



- A new graduate nurse is required to have 12 months dialysis experienced before being allowed to independently care for dialysis patients.

When our home dialysis patients travel to other states and get into trouble medically or have questions, they want to call back to their regular nurse who knows them well for their nursing services. Because nurses must be licensed in the state where the patient is at to provide care, our nurses are not able to assist our patients if they have trouble with their dialysis while traveling. The patient would have to go to a local ER, which may not be necessary and could cost the patient out of pocket.

Severe weather, power outages or other disaster-related situations, such as the magnitude 7.1 earthquake in November of 2018, may impact our clinics and our staff's homes and could impact our ability to provide *dialysis staff* even when an affected clinic is functional. For dialysis patients, interruptions and delays in treatment schedules is more than just an inconvenience – it is critical. It is important that dialysis nurses be able to come from other states immediately to come to the aid of patients in need of lifesaving treatment.

Finally, we currently employ Renal Nurse Case Managers in call centers throughout the United States. Some of the nursing supports by phone include patient education, review of medications, and arrangements for transportation to dialysis to reduce emergency room visits and missed dialysis treatments. The administrative burden of obtaining multiple nursing licenses in non-Compact states has restricted our renal case management services to the states that are currently members of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

The Nurse Licensure Compact is important to us but also for health care for all Alaskans. According to a recent study on nursing shortages, by 2030 Alaska will be the state with the highest percentage of nursing openings, at 23%.* For these reasons we ask for your support of the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Brian Norton, RN
Clinic Manager
9085 Blackberry Street
Anchorage, AK 99502
brian.norton@fmc-na.com

*The States with the Largest Nursing Shortages, RegisteredNursing.org, January 22, 2020.

Jody Simpson

From: Connie Beemer <conniejbeemer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Please support the multi-state Nurse Licensure Compact legislation

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senate HSS Committee,

I am writing today to encourage your full support of SB 179, which allows Alaska to join 34 other states in a multistate nurse licensure compact (NLC). The goal of the NLC is to improve patient care by allowing qualified nurses to practice across state lines with a single license. Increasing the ability to hire and deploy qualified nurses in a timely fashion can make a significant difference in providing great care to patients. The NLC will help avoid costly delays in the licensing process and fill critical workforce shortages faster. This effort will help reduce fatigue and overtime for nursing staff, so a vote for NLC is an investment in patient safety!

The NLC is a helpful tool for recruiting and retention efforts in Alaska, and it also can be critical during times of emergency or disaster, allowing a nurse to easily cross state lines to help those in need. Finally, the NLC helps military families. Military spouses are burdened with applying for a new nursing license each time the family must relocate. Under the NLC, the spouse's employment can continue seamlessly.

Alaska nurses support the NLC. According to a 2019 survey of Alaska-licensed nurses, 92% supported joining the Compact including 87% of Alaska-licensed nurses who are members of a union.

Thank you for considering this very important issue to nurses and patients in your district.

Sincerely,

Connie Beemer
10312 Ridge Park Dr
Anchorage, AK 99507
conniejbeemer@gmail.com

Jody Simpson

From: Suzan Cobb <suzanrn12@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Cc: Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Sen. David Wilson; boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Subject: Re: Nurse Licensure Compact SB 179

Please help the Board of Nursing pass Senate Bill 179 I am very much in favor of Alaska joining the compact! This will allow additional RNs to travel to our great state to assist in the healthcare of our friends and neighbors and add to the fluidity of my nursing career being able to move freely within the compact states Thank you.. respectfully Suzan Cobb RN

Jody Simpson

From: Alan Wolf <hw99615pet@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 7:56 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; House Health and Social Services
Subject: Tiffany.Zulkosky@akleg.gov, David.Wilson@akleg.gov,boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Attachments: HB 238 SB 179.pages

Letter in support of HB 238 and SB 179.

Thank you,
Rose Wolf RNFA, CNOR

Jody Simpson

From: Brown, Karen S <BrownK29@aetna.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 5:20 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; House Health and Social Services
Cc: Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Sen. David Wilson; boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Subject: House Bill 238 and Senate Bill 179

House and/or Senate Health and Social Services Committee and Members of the Alaska Legislature:

The goal of the Nurse Licensure Compact is to improve patient care by allowing nurses to practice freely across state lines with one license.

The NLC has many benefits for Alaska. The goal of the Nurse Licensure Compact is to improve patient care no matter where they live. The NLC is also crucial during times of disaster, allowing a nurse to easily cross state lines to help those in need. Finally, the NLC helps military families. Military spouses are burdened with applying for a new nursing license each time the family must relocate. Under the NLC, the spouse's employment can continue seamlessly.

I feel that the NLC will greatly benefit Alaska and I do hope that you pass House Bill 238 and Senate Bill 179.

Thank you for considering this very important issue to nurses and patients in your district.

Karen Brown, R.N.
Alaska RN license #149165

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Thank you. Aetna

Jody Simpson

From: Tucker, Sonia <TuckerS3@aetna.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 4:51 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; House Health and Social Services
Cc: Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Sen. David Wilson; boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Subject: House Bill 238 and Senate Bill 179

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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I feel that the NLC will greatly benefit Alaska and I do hope that you pass House Bill 238 and Senate Bill 179.

Thank you for considering this very important issue to nurses and patients in your district.

Sonia Tucker, R.N.
Alaska RN License #NURR31564

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Thank you. Aetna

Jody Simpson

From: J <TorkSCA@protonmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 4:11 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; House Health and Social Services
Cc: Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Sen. David Wilson; boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Subject: House Bill 238 and Senate Bill 179

I am writing this note asking that you vote positively on House Bill 238 and Senate Bill 179. This would allow the state of Alaska to become the 35th member of the enhanced licensure compact for nurses.

This allows for a nurse from another compact state to work in another compact state without going through a long and often complicated licensing procedure. As an Alaskan resident and a traveling nurse, I cannot speak highly enough about having this ability.

It will allow Alaskan nurses to take contracts in other compact states, and more importantly, will allow other compact nurses to come to Alaska in a quicker and more direct manner, which could help out immensely during times of need, such as now in Bethel with the high number of RSV cases.

I hope you will vote positively on this and bring Alaska into the nursing compact family.

Jason Kaylor -RN

Sent from ProtonMail Mobile

Jody Simpson

From: Laurie Schaeffer <Imagine1@alaska.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 8:43 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; House Health and Social Services
Cc: Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Sen. David Wilson; BoardofNursing@Alaska.gov
Subject: Senate Bill 179 & House Bill 236

Importance: High

Hello to all,

I am writing to request the Senate and the House move forward with Senate Bill 179 & House Bill 236 this year for approval to for Alaska to become a Nurse Licensure Compact state.

I have been a nurse since 1983 and currently work in a hospital setting. In November 2019, I became a Board Certified Health and Wellness Nurse Coach (HWNC-BC). I am extremely excited about leading the way to facilitate others wellbeing via this new field of nursing. An essential piece for availability to work in this field with freedom is being licensed in a compact state. Some jobs actually require the nurse have a compact licensure.

If you would like to know more about the Nurse Coaching field of nursing, please feel free to contact me. It will be one of the avenues to transform healthcare as we know it.

Please move this bill forward for final approval and vote so the great state of Alaska can be a part of this movement to transform the health of our nation.

With a heart and passion for the wellbeing of each individual,

Laurie Lin Schaeffer HWNC-BC RN

Jody Simpson

From: Sharon Geraghty <aksharong@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:25 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: SB179 Nurse Licensure Compact

I support this bill. It is important to make it easier for nurses to travel across state lines and obtain work to meet health care demands across the United States. Many of our residents are in the military, and many of our hospitals are staffed with travel nurses.

Thank you
Sharon Geraghty

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

Jody Simpson

From: Shannon Connelly <houseofspeedy6@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 6:58 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Cc: Murray, Marianne (CED)
Subject: Nurse Licensure Compact

Categories: In 2D

Good Morning Senator Wilson,

This morning representatives from the Board of Nursing will be asking the Legislature for support for the Nursing Licensure Compact. I have been a Public Member of the Nursing Board for one year, and was one of the members who voted to support Alaska entering into the NLC.

Our Board has had the opportunity to hear from nurses from around the state, as well as others that would be affected by Alaska joining. There is a great deal of support for our state to join the 34 states that have enacted NLC legislation. Many nurses that I have heard from would like the opportunity to hold multi-state licenses. This would help with our mobile society, especially here in Alaska with the large population of military families that we have. Family members would not have to hold multiple state licenses as they move to new duty stations; if they are in states that are part of the NLC.

I hope that we have your support and help to move SB 179 through.

Thank you,
Shannon Connelly
Alaska Board of Nursing Public Member
907-354-1856
District 11

Jody Simpson

From: Beth Farnstrom <b_gartner@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 3:00 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Cathy Giessel
Subject: Nurse licensure compact SB 179

Categories: In 2D

Dear Senators,

SB 179 is not beneficial to Alaska. The majority of the pro reasons only deal with employers convenience and nurse convenience. The Board of Nursing is established to protect the public. By joining the compact, Alaska would lose our sovereignty and our present nursing standards would be decreased. There is NO evidence to prove that the compact has eliminated the nursing shortage in any compact state. Why decrease the delivery of nursing care to meet the nurse licensure compact? Alaskan citizens deserve better than the nursing compact and Alaskan nurses deserve to have colleagues that are held to the standards Alaskans have in place.

Please do not support SB 179 .

Sincerely,

Beth Farnstrom, RN
Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone

Jody Simpson

From: Woods, Tiffany E <WoodsT8@aetna.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; House Health and Social Services
Cc: Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky; Sen. David Wilson; boardofnursing@alaska.gov
Subject: House Bill 238 and Senate Bill 179

House and/or Senate Health and Social Services Committee and Members of the Alaska Legislature:

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I feel that the NLC will greatly benefit Alaska and I do hope that you pass House Bill 238 and Senate Bill 179.

Thank you for considering this very important issue to nurses and patients in your district.

Tiffany Woods, RN

Tiffany Woods, RN, BSN | Health Coach Consultant, Customer & Specialty Clinical Operations
p 959-230-5154
4050 Piedmont Parkway, Mail Code F314, High Point, NC 27265



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Thank you. Aetna