

Jody Simpson

From: Susan Goodwin <susanloughlin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Cc: House Health and Social Services
Subject: SB179 and HB 236

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I write in strong support for the Nurse Licensure Compact bills currently being considered. I am a RN who has practiced in AK for 9 years. I used to hold separate licenses in Oregon and Washington and have let them lapse because of the expense and tedious bureaucracy involved with license maintenance. I also currently hold a New Zealand license and can attest that the more we encourage nurses from other practice environments to come to Alaska, the better our nursing workforce will be.

Please vote yes for these important bills and help us, your nurses who pay the largest licensure fee in the country, to become part of the nurse license compact agreement.

Thank you for your time,
Susan Goodwin, BSN-RN, MPH
Anchorage resident

Pardon my brevity, sent from iPad

Jody Simpson

From: Paul Norwood <norwoodpaul@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; House Health and Social Services; Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Cc: Board, Nursing (CED sponsored); Sen. David Wilson; Rep. Tiffany Zulkosky
Subject: SB179 (Nurse Licensure Compact)

I would like to express my support for Alaska to become a compact state. This would help our nurses, our nursing students, and nurses who would like to work here temporarily or not. I realize that we are a unique state, but I do not believe that we won't be able to accommodate the needs of the nursing profession within the framework of the compact states. I also am not concerned with the idea that ethics reviews may be different from state to state. I believe my practice and conduct can be evaluated just fine by a panel of nurses from any of the compact states. Hopefully, nursing licenses will become federal and this problem will just go away. In the meantime, this is the path forward.

Thanks!

Paul Norwood
RN (registered nurse)
Sitka

Jody Simpson

From: Kevin Worley <kevin.worley@hcahealthcare.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2020 12:20 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: I urge you to support SB 179 - Nurse Licensure Compact

Dear Senate HSS Committee,

Thank you for supporting the nursing profession and health care in Alaska. Alaska nurses support the multistate nurse licensure compact (NLC), and I am asking you to support SB 179 so that Alaska can be the 35th state to join the compact.

The NLC improves access to care by making it easier for nurses to start working. Qualified nurses in compact member states can start providing patient care right away, rather than sitting on the sidelines for weeks with paperwork and processing. Filling staff vacancies is imperative to ensuring continuity of care and support for patients.

The compact has high standards with uniform requirements for a multistate license to ensure that nurses from NLC states meet strict qualifications. This is why it makes sense that nurses with a multistate license can provide care across state borders without jumping through additional red tape.

Alaska needs to be competitive to attract professional nursing staff. The NLC would help us attract talented out-of-state nurses who want to stay and work in Alaska. Also, the NLC helps military families. Military spouses are burdened with applying for a new nursing license each time the family relocates. Under the NLC, the spouse's employment can continue seamlessly.

Alaska nurses support the NLC. According to a 2019 survey of Alaska-licensed nurses (3,573 nurses completed the survey), 92% support 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.

Sincerely,

Kevin Worley
11045 Kaskanak Dr
Eagle River, AK 99577
kevin.worley@hcahealthcare.com

Jody Simpson

From: Michelle Husberg <michelle@husberg.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 03, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: I urge you to support SB 179 - Nurse Licensure Compact

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senate HSS Committee,

Thank you for supporting the nursing profession and health care in Alaska. Alaska nurses support the multistate nurse licensure compact (NLC), and I am asking you to support SB 179 so that Alaska can be the 35th state to join the compact.

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

Sincerely,

Michelle Husberg
17239 Kantishna Dr
Eagle River, AK 99577
michelle@husberg.net

Jody Simpson

From: Donna Phillips <donnaphill1178@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2020 9:12 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Cc: Jody Simpson
Subject: Opposition to SB 179

Dear Senator Wilson and members of Senate HSS,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 179 a bill that would allow the Nurse Licensure Compact in our state. While I was not born and raised in Alaska, I do consider Alaska my home. I have worked as an RN for 40+ years with the last 26 years in Alaska. As a nurse in this state, I have seen many nurses come and go. I feel that the nurse compact could very well exacerbate the transient community that we tend to experience. Alaskans are the ones that consistently contribute to our economy.

As an Intensive Care Unit nurse, I know all too well the importance of having a strong team that works well together. As a new nurse arrives in our facilities, they do not immediately know the members of the team they work with or have relationships with the physician, therapists, pharmacists and all the other workers that make up our teams that save Alaskans lives. While these relationships can develop overtime, having a cohesive team is best for patient outcomes and safety.

I would encourage those employers who have problems with keeping a trained workforce, plan for, educate and create a work environment that Alaskans will stay living and working in our state for. While there are factors that influence the desire to continue employment at one facility over another, I do believe that there are factors beyond financial that often influence someone to stay or leave an employer that don't have to do with wages. Is there any proof that the NLC has solved a nursing shortage anywhere in our country?

In your packet, is a survey done by the group National Council State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). I wonder how many of the 3500+ respondents actually live and work in our state and contribute even a small amount to our economy. It seems to me that the 6000+ nurse licensees that have an out of state address would stand to benefit from AK joining the NLC, more than an Alaskan nurse would. These out of state license holders would need to pay nothing to the state to talk with our patients, educate our nurses or be a participant in the collecting of fees generated by the services given to Alaskans through billings paid by Medicare and Medicaid.

Some fear that we would not have enough people in a disaster, like the 7.2 earthquake we experiences in 2018. It is my understanding that the State of Alaska is part of an Emergency Management Assistance Compact that allows for full transfer of a license for disaster response. I do not see how joining the compact would change the ability to bring any additional healthcare professionals that we may need to care for our citizens in the event of a similar or worse disaster.

Thank you for your diligent work as you look at many pieces of legislation this session. Please oppose the passage of SB 179.

Regards,
Donna Phillips, RN
Girdwood, AK