

Jody Simpson

From: HANSEN, ROBERT A Maj USAF PACAF 11 AF/LL <robert.hansen.16@us.af.mil>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:35 PM
To: randy.ruaro@alaska.gov
Cc: Hoskinson, Glenn A (CED); Senate Health and Social Services; Wright, Stanley A (MVA); Perreault, Tammie L CIV OSD OUSD P-R (USA); BERG, KRISTOPHER K CMSgt USAF ANR ALCOM 11 AF/CCC; CROMER, NATHANIEL S Capt USAF PACAF 11 AF/CCA; AVALOS, ARMANDO TSgt USAF PACAF 11 AF/CCCE; Defillipo, Jay R CIV USARMY USARPAC (USA); TeVrucht, Mollie L CIV USARMY USARAK (USA); HESS, ALEXANDER J Maj USAF PACAF PACAF/CCX-LL; KELLEY, JENNIFER G Maj USAF PACAF 11 AF/CCE; NICHOLSON, MATTHEW J Col USAF PACAF 11 AF/CD; FLEENER, CRAIG L Lt Col USAF PACAF 11 AF/CS; JONES, JASON J COL USA USNORTHCOM ALCOM/CS
Subject: Support Letter for SB 67
Attachments: Letter to Senator Wilson 25 Feb 21.pdf

Mr. Ruaro,

Congratulations are in order for your recent promotion to the interim Chief of Staff! I am writing today to seek your assistance in ensuring that the attached letter finds its way to the appropriate committees that will be considering the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact. As you will see, this bill is supported by both Air Force and Army leadership here in Alaska.

Special "thank you" to everyone involved in getting this letter submitted: Ms. Tammie Perrault and her team for the advocacy, Maj. Kelley for the last-minute edits and getting it signed by Lt Gen Krumm, and Ms. Mollie TeVrucht at USARAK for helping fast-track Maj Gen Andrysiak's signature. Pushing something as important as this to military spouses (this quickly) is not ideal--and definitely not the way I like to do business--but I really do appreciate all the help along the way.

If there is anything else you need from me, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully,

Maj Hansen

Robert A. "GRID" Hansen, Maj, USAF
Legislative Liaison to the Commander
Alaskan NORAD Region, Alaskan Command, and 11th AF
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HEADQUARTERS
ALASKAN NORAD REGION, ALASKAN COMMAND,
ELEVENTH AIR FORCE
JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99506

23 February 2021

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The Honorable David Wilson
Chair of Senate Health and Social Services
State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Wilson

Thank you for your continued support of our men and women in the armed forces. We commend your recent effort to support the families of over 17,500 active duty, guard, and reserve military members that reside in Alaska. Collectively, we are writing today to request your immediate consideration of one of the most critical bills to assist military spouses: Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC).

Military spousal employment is an issue critical to the well-being of our forces. The associated time and financial burden of obtaining additional State licenses for our military spouses often becomes an additional stressor during the military move and can ultimately influence a family's decision to stay in or leave the military.

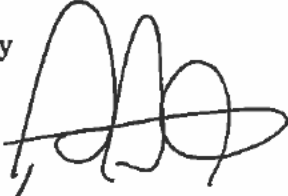
Many states have enacted Occupational Licensure Interstate Compacts, which allow for mutual recognition of professional licensure between states. These compacts create a crucial link in preserving employability for military spouses when moving to a new duty station, and the adoption of such compacts would be highly beneficial to both military spouses and the State of Alaska. For instance, the NLC allowing Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses privilege to practice in Alaska is of particular importance to military spouses.

Getting spouses licensed to work, ideally within 30 days of arrival in Alaska, without cumbersome paperwork, is a success for the spouse, the employer, and the State, and make the burden of frequent military moves easier to handle. Most importantly, it strengthens military readiness and impacts our nation's ability to recruit and retain a robust force.

Guardian of the North

We appreciate the ongoing efforts by the State of Alaska regarding military quality of life issues. As you consider the NLC, we encourage you to continue to look for opportunities in the future to expand licensure reciprocity for the benefit of service members' families.

Sincerely



PETER B. ANDRYSIAK, Maj Gen, USA
Commander, USARAK

Sincerely



DAVID A. KRUMM, Lt Gen, USAF
Commander, ALCOM, ANR, 11 AF

Jody Simpson

From: Marianne Murray <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:58 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Support for SB 67
Attachments: NLC support letter from Murray.pdf

Good Afternoon Chair Wilson and Esteemed Members of the Health and Social Services Committee,
Thank you for taking public testimony on SB 67. I have attached my letter of support for the SB 67 and the Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC). I have been a nurse for 29 years and a nurse educator for 15 years. In its essence, the NLC ensures that participating states uphold certain standards and licensing criteria for nurses. These required licensing criteria and standards have been chosen to increase public and patient safety. Joining the NLC will demonstrate that Alaska has become a nurse friendly state by decreasing regulatory burden. For nursing education the NLC will increase the pool of qualified applicants for educator positions and decrease the significant delay for nursing faculty wanting to start a new nursing position in Alaska.

Thank you for your public service.

Best regards,

Marianne Murray DNP, MSN, RN, CHSE

2/25/2021

Dear members of the Alaska State Legislature:

My name is Dr. Marianne Murray, and I am a registered nurse and the Director of Nursing Programs at Alaska Pacific University. We are a new nursing program in Alaska. Cultural Safety is the curricular foundation of our nursing program. We are a partner with ANTHC. I am writing to request your support of Senate Bill 67 and House Bill 83 establishing the Nurse Licensure Compact.

Describe the problems in your workplace that the NLC could help alleviate.

Patients and the public in general are the greatest benefactors of the NLC due to the public protection aspects of the NLC as well as the increase in access to care. For schools of nursing the greatest benefit is the increase in availability of qualified faculty members. One of the reasons that many nursing schools do not increase admissions to their programs is because they do not have qualified applicants for open faculty positions. Without qualified faculty, we cannot teach more potential qualified nursing applicants. I would like Alaska to become nurse friendly and decrease barriers to nurse licensure. The NLC also:

- **Streamlines licensure to employment.** In non-compact states, nurses must apply for a license in each state to work. This is a very costly and time-consuming process. There are fees for the license application, license verification, and a criminal background check. Weeks or even months pass before a license is issued.
- **Hospitals and clinics can fill positions quickly.** Under the NLC agreement, nurses can start work in any compact state right away. With the correct qualifications for a position, employers can hire nurses without the costs of delay to fill vacant positions.
- **Rapid deployment of nurses.** As you can imagine, the NLC has been particularly beneficial for travel nurses who no longer need to obtain multiple licenses. It also allows for the rapid deployment of additional health care providers in the event of a disaster.
- **Addresses nursing shortage.** The NLC will contribute to improved service delivery especially in community health services in rural areas like Alaska where there is often a shortage of nurses.
- **Reduces cost for the nurse.** Nursing licenses are costly. Requiring nurses to maintain multiple licenses is a barrier. Alaska nurses overwhelmingly desire the option to hold a multistate license.
- **Benefits through telemedicine.** With the adoption of the NLC in Alaska, registered nurses in one state can assist other states through telemedicine.

This bill is a win-win, maintaining our current licensure options while increasing access to quality health care across Alaska's communities. **This legislation is strongly supported by nurses, health care facilities, and military families throughout Alaska.**

Thank you for moving this bill forward quickly so it can be implemented in our state this year.

Sincerely,

Marianne Murray, DNP, MSN, RN, CHSE

Marianne Murray



February 25, 2021

Senator David Wilson
Senate Health and Social Services Committee
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Re: SB 67 Nurse Licensure Compact

Dear Senator Wilson and members of the Senate HSS Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of SB 67, an Act relating to the licensure of nursing professionals, multi-state nurse licensure compact.

Alaska, specifically rural Alaska, faces a high vacancy rate for nurses and needs to be competitive to attract professional nursing staff. Filling staff vacancies is imperative to ensure continuity of care and support for patients. The compact has high standards with uniform requirements for a multi-state license to ensure that nurses from NLC states meet strict qualifications.

The NLC is an effective tool for recruiting and retention efforts, and a critical resource during times of public health emergency or natural disasters by allowing a nurse to easily cross stateliness to help those in need. Alaska's participation in the compact will increase the ability to hire and deploy qualified nurses in a timely manner, as well as expand the economic opportunity for Alaska nurses by allowing them to provide educational services and training to nurses in other compact states. Nurses within compact states tend to migrate to other states covered by their license, participating in the compact offers strategic access to a much needed workforce resource.

I strongly support Alaska joining the multi-state nurse licensure compact (NLC) to reduce barriers to licensure, expand workforce opportunities, address nursing workforce shortages and most importantly improve patient care.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dawn Johnson".

Dawn Johnson, MSN, CNOR
Chief Nursing Officer

Jody Simpson

From: Mike Coons <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2021 1:33 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Support SB 67

My name is Mike Coons and I am speaking as the President of the Matsu Chapter of AMAC Action and myself.

We fully support SB67. In point of fact AMAC Action and AARP both support this bill.

I have read the pro's and con's and I am impressed by the large support in and out of State. Up to this writing of my testimony, only one opposition and that being the Nurses Union. As a USAF retiree and as a contract Paramedic, I see the need for this compact and I am fully on board as to the safeguards within the compact.

Our chapter supported this legislation in the past session which did not get passed because of the virus this past year. It is sad that it didn't because with the pandemic, if this had been in place, more patients could have been treated with far less fatigue by a limited nursing staff.

The Matsu Chapter of AMAC Action is in full support and we urge quick passage out to the Senate floor and hopefully a quick passage to the other body as well.

Mike Coons
President, Matsu Chapter, AMAC Action

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THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Commerce,
Community, & Economic
Development**

Corporations, Business, & Professional Licensing
Board of Pharmacy

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February 24, 2021

Honorable Michael Dunleavy,

The Alaska Board of Pharmacy is in support of the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) bill, SB 67. Pharmacists have a long-standing professional relationship with RNs and LPNs and value their expertise and collaboration. We support the ability for nurses to join this compact to minimize administrative workload and strengthen Alaska's healthcare workforce.

Thank you,

Alaska Board of Pharmacy