

Jody Simpson

From: Laurie Schaeffer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 8:25 PM
To: Sen. Peter Micciche; Rep. Ronald Gillham; Senate Health and Social Services; Glenn.Hoskinson@alaska.gov
Subject: Laurie Schaeffer requesting support for SB 67

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Senator Micciche, Representative Gillham, Senate Health & Social Services Committee, and Mr. Hoskinson,

I am writing to request support and approval of SB 67 regarding Alaska becoming a Nurse Licensure Compact state.

I have been a nurse in Alaska 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



February 18, 2021

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

RE: FOR SUPPORT: SB 67

Dear Chairman Wilson,

On behalf of the American Telemedicine Association (ATA), I am writing to express strong support of *SB 67: An Act relating to the licensure of nursing professionals; relating to a multistate nurse licensure compact*. The Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) has been enacted in 34 states and ATA is pleased to see the Alaska take an important step towards adopting the NLC and expanding access to care and telehealth services.

As the only organization completely focused on advancing telehealth, the ATA is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to safe, affordable and appropriate care when and where they need it, enabling the system to do more good for more people. The ATA represents a broad and inclusive member network of technology solution providers and payers, as well as partner organizations and alliances, working to advance industry adoption of telehealth, promote responsible policy, advocate for government and market normalization, and provide education and resources to help integrate virtual care into emerging value-based delivery models.

The NLC allows nurses to have one multistate license, in his or her state of residency, that grants the privilege to practice in other NLC participating state, both physically and remotely using telehealth. Utilizing telehealth nursing improves continuity of care for both urban and rural patients, especially those in underserved communities who may not have access otherwise. This is particularly important to enabling and delivering efficient, 21st century nursing care across state lines using digital health technologies.

We applaud your efforts for taking action to advance this vital legislation and encourage all legislators, including members of the Health and Social Services Committee to advance the NLC legislation.

We believe the NLC not only would continue to protect patients but also would help drive better care coordination and healthcare outcomes for constituents throughout the state. If you have any questions or would like to further discuss ATA's perspective on this critical issue, please contact me at kzebley@americantelemed.org.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Zebley", written in a cursive style.

Kyle Zebley
Public Policy Director
American Telemedicine Association



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Peter Micciche
Senate President
120 4th Street, Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801

Senator Micciche:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am providing this letter of support for SB 67, the multi-state nurse licensure compact.

I serve as the Northwest Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Our mission is to be a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues of service members and their families.

One of the Department's current Quality of Life Key Issues is working to help enact Interstate Compacts to improve licensure options for military spouses, veterans and service members. The DoD has partnered with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to support the Nurse Licensure Compact. The Nurse Licensure Compact allows military spouses to use their state of legal residence as their home state for privilege to practice.

The percentage of military spouses in Alaska is the second highest in the nation. 34% of military spouses in the workforce are in licensed occupations. As such, we appreciate your consideration of laws, such as SB 67, which would support easing the burden of licensure for military spouses.

We are grateful for the tremendous efforts that State of Alaska has historically made to support our military members and families. Please contact me with any questions you may have at tammie.l.perreault.civ@mail.mil or (571) 424-8264.

Sincerely,

Tammie L. Perreault
Northwest Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)

Jody Simpson

From: John Morris <John_Morris@ykhc.org>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 9:15 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Shelley Hughes; Sen. Mia Costello; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Support for Alaska Nurse Licensure Compact

Honorable Senators,

I am respectfully requesting your support for the State of Alaska to join the Nurse Licensure Compact.

No matter where the training occurred, licensed nursing skills are tested using a national standard (the NCLEX) and are fundamentally analogous and portable. It would benefit the people of Western Alaska for YK Delta Regional Hospital to have access to a larger labor pool by removing the requirement of a unique Alaska nursing license.

Your consideration of this issue is deeply appreciated.

John M. Morris, BS, BSN, RN
Chief Nurse Executive
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Clinical Education
Phone (907) 543-6991
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Jody Simpson

From: Updike, Shannon <SUpdike@peacehealth.org>
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 10:55 AM
To: Sen. David Wilson
Subject: SB67 Alaska Nurse Licensure Compact Legislation

Honorable David Wilson,

My name is Shannon Updike. I am a Bachelors prepared Registered Nurse and have spent the bulk of my nursing career working and serving at PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center (PH KMC) in Ketchikan (25 years). I worked as a staff nurse in several departments, I was a manager of a nursing unit for twelve years and I served as the Chief Nursing Officer and Nursing Home Administrator for six and a half years. (I am currently the Interim Licensed Nursing Home Administrator). Throughout those 25 years, staffing our facility with registered nurses to safely meet the healthcare needs and demands of our patients, residents and community, has been a consistent and trying challenge. Within that challenge, obtaining Alaska Nursing Licensure in a timely manner for nurses who are eligible, available and agreeable to accept employment at PH KMC, has been at the top of the list. As a matter of fact, I've been emailing and calling the Alaska Board of Nursing this week related to two nurses who are scheduled to begin work at PH KMC Long Term Care facility (Nursing Home) next Monday (2/22/21) and their applications, along with expedited applications, were submitted weeks ago.

When obtaining Alaska nursing licensure takes an average of 8-12 weeks many challenges are created:

1. Filling vacated positions in a timely manner.
2. Safely staffing our nursing units to meet patient healthcare needs at all times, but especially in times of disaster, pandemics, influx of people in the community (summer tourist season), etc.
3. Limits patient/resident capacity in nursing units and Nursing homes (Limits patient/resident care).
4. Creates immense cost to healthcare facilities r/t overtime for nurses, bonuses for extra shifts, reliance on travel nurses due to extending contracts, managing the scheduling and onboarding of new nursing staff due to not being able to rely on timely licensure.
5. Creates turnover of nursing staff due to dissatisfaction with meeting staffing needs.
6. Causes nurses waiting for their AK RN licensure to come through to take other jobs outside of Alaska due to the inability to afford waiting 8-12 weeks to begin a new job in Alaska.

7. Hospitals/Nursing homes cannot operate efficiently and effectively without a robust pool of nurses. Services are threatened and/or limited without nurses.

Nursing shortages are nationwide and Alaska can be a challenging state to recruit to. As such, we should be doing all we can to attract and maintain competent, professional registered nurses to our state.

Compact Nurse licensure would make a significant, positive difference for all healthcare organizations in the State of Alaska who employ and rely on registered nurses to care for and serve their communities.

I support the passing of SB67 (Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact) as it will reduce barriers to licensure, address nursing workforce shortages, and improve patient care over all for all communities in Alaska.

The passage of SB67 will make a tremendous difference for healthcare facilities throughout Alaska.

Thank you for your attention to this extremely critical healthcare need.

Sincerely,
Shannon Updike

Shannon Updike, BSN, LNHA
Interim VP LTC Administrator, PH KMC New Horizons LTC
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901
907-225-5171 ext. 7887
907-254-5176

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February 19, 2021

The Honorable Mike Dunleavy, Governor
State of Alaska
3rd Floor, State Capitol
PO Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Dunleavy,

Foundation Health Partners strongly supports SB67 authorizing Alaska to participate in the Nurse Licensing Compact. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has shined a bright light on the benefits to be gained in Alaska by participating in the Compact. Now is the time to pass this important legislation.

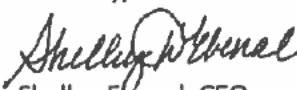
The Nursing Licensure Compact (NLC) removes complications for nurses practicing in multiple states. Nurses from NLC states can work across state lines without having to worry about applying for licensure in each state or being burdened by multiple renewal requirements and fees.

As of July 1, 2020, 34 states and 2 million nurses can practice in states that participate in the NLC. The advantages are significant to Alaska and Foundation Health Partners and are listed below:

- 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.
- Foundation Health Partners 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.
- Benefits through telemedicine. With the adoption of the NLC in Alaska, registered nurses in one state can assist other states through telemedicine.

We appreciate your support and encourage quick passage of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to call on Foundation Health Partners with questions or if further information is needed.

Sincerely,


Shelley Ebenal, CEO

cc: Senate HSS Committee



ALASKA STATE HOSPITAL &
NURSING HOME ASSOCIATION

February 19, 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,

The Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association (ASHNHA) is a membership organization representing Alaska's hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home health agencies and other health care providers. ASHNHA is pleased to write this letter in support of SB 67, an Act relating to the licensure of nursing professionals, multistate nurse licensure compact.

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

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 statelines to help those in need. The NLC helps military spouses who are burdened with applying for a new nursing license each time the family must relocate. Alaska's participation in the compact will increase the ability to hire and deploy qualified nurses in a timely manner, as well 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.

Alaska faces a high vacancy rate for nurses across the state 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 multistate license to ensure that nurses from NLC states meet strict qualifications. In addition to the licensing process, Alaska hospitals and nursing homes are invested in patient safety by having stringent onboarding processes, internal standards and competencies that must be met before work can begin.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Jared Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO

Issue	SB 67 and HB 14 Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact
Position	ASHNHA supports the nurse licensure compact to reduce barriers to licensure, address nursing workforce shortages, and improve patient care.
Summary	Seeks to streamline the licensure and regulation of nurses by allowing Alaska to join a multistate compact that consists of a single nursing license with uniform qualifications and practice expectations that can be used in any member state. Thirty-four other states participate.

How Does the Nurse Licensure Compact Benefit Alaska?

Improve Access to Care and Patient Safety

- Helps reduce nurse workforce shortages and expands access to nursing services quickly and efficiently, which is essential for the health of many rural and underserved communities.
- Fully staffed clinics and shifts assist our members in maintaining stable patient centered care teams.
- Adequate staffing reduces nursing stress.

Telehealth

- Enables Alaska nurses to practice in-person or provide telehealth nursing services to patients located across the country without having to obtain additional licenses.
- Allows nurse educators from Alaska to teach online courses to nursing students in other states.

Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief

- Allows nurses to quickly and easily provide nursing services in Alaska in response to disasters such as pandemics and natural disasters such as earthquakes and mass casualty events.

Military Families

- Allows military spouse nurses to seamlessly continue working without having to obtain a new license each time they relocate.

Cost Effective and Efficient

- Avoids delays to the licensing process and allows nurses to get to work quickly and efficiently.
- Eliminates redundant, duplicative regulatory processes and unnecessary fees.
- Allows nurses who do not wish to have a multistate license or those who are ineligible for a multistate license to still obtain a single state license based on Alaska's requirements and statutes.
- Nurses with a state or federal felony convictions are ineligible for multistate license.

**ALASKA NURSE
LICENSURE
COMPACT
SURVEY
RESULTS**

3,573

nurses completed
the 2019 Alaska
Compact Survey!

92% of all respondents are in favor of joining the Nurse Licensure Compact.

89% of Alaskan resident nurses are in favor of joining the compact.

87% of the nurses would apply for a compact nurse license if available.