

From: [Kayla](#)
To: [Senate Health and Social Services](#)
Cc: [Sen. David Wilson](#); [Sen. Shelley Hughes](#); [Sen. Mia Costello](#); [Sen. Lora Reinbold](#); [Sen. Tom Begich](#)
Subject: Support Senate Bill 67 -Registered Nurse
Date: Thursday, September 09, 2021 10:56:45 PM

Kayla Mount RN, BSN
Juneau, Alaska

Chair David Wilson
Alaska Senate Health and Social Services Committee

Dear Chair Wilson,

I am compelled to write to you and the committee today as a Registered Nurse in support of Senate Bill 67. I have been a nurse in Alaska for the last four years of my 11-year career and I am nearing completion of graduate studies to become a family nurse practitioner. I have worked in seven different states and two countries. I come from a military family and have researched the issue of state licensure extensively. I believe my knowledge and personal experience could provide great insight if the members of the committee would like to discuss this further.

Here is my story;

In 2013, I returned to the United States from Australia where I worked in an ICU specializing in cardiothoracic and neurosurgery. I wanted to move to Alaska, but despite being licensed in multiple states, I discovered after reviewing the nursing license application, that I would not be able to apply for licensure, as Alaska's licensure employment verification requirements were logistically impossible for me to accomplish having last been employed abroad. As a result, I set aside my dream to move to Alaska and instead went to work in an ICU in Denver, Colorado. Eventually, I left Denver and started my career as a travel nurse, working in ICUs and CCUs across the United States.

Year's later, I revisited Alaska's nursing license application, but found it to be the most onerous I had come across, especially as a night shift nurse who now was busy fulfilling travel contracts. I, once again, set Alaska aside and decided to only look for contracts in compact states.

I worked in Colorado, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota seamlessly with one license. I did not take up the Alaska licensure application again until 2017, when I was offered a permanent position to be a flight nurse in Juneau. It took over four

weeks to process through the Board of Nursing (Board), and the experience was anything but straightforward and simple. Had it not been for the unique employment opportunity, I would have been content to continue working in any of the 34 compact states.

Now, as a proud Alaska RN, I have become reacquainted with the license application processing issues of the Board, and how fraught it is to so much as make contact with staff serving the Board. I am in the process of completing a graduate program through Georgetown University to become a Family Nurse Practitioner and serve our state's citizens. While in the program, it has taken 3-4 weeks and dozens of phone calls to process each simple update to my APRN preceptorship registration--the paperwork which only Alaska requires for nursing students attending an out-of-state university to remain in their communities to advance their nursing education. In multiple instances, my application was only ever processed after I sought help from a personal contact at the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.

I cannot imagine how it must be for a registered nurse trying to get licensure in Alaska during this especially difficult time.

In January, multiple members of the senate asked if there was something the legislature could do to help get healthcare workers to Alaska without an emergency declaration and this is it. This committee failed to move this bill out of committee during the regular session, and now you have a second chance to make a difference. Remove barriers for nurses to come to Alaska. I urge you to vote yea on Senate Bill 67.

Sincerely,

Kayla Mount RN, BSN
Family Nurse Practitioner Student
Georgetown University