



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Military and
Veterans Affairs**

Office of the Commissioner

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February 22, 2021

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

Dear Senator Wilson:

On behalf of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), I am writing to express support for SB 67 NURSING: LICENSURE; MULTISTATE COMPACT.

During the course of their military service, military members and their families will more than likely transition from one state to another. It is unfortunate that military family members will need to re-start the licensure process due to barriers and regulations that hinder them from continuing their career in Alaska. This legislation will allow military spouses who are in the nursing field to have an easier time continuing their occupation after relocating to Alaska.

In addition to easing the transition to Alaska, this legislation sends a message to the military community that the State of Alaska values their service, allowing the relationship between the military and civilian sector to flourish. Furthermore, support for the military community is great for the state's economy and the country's national defense as a whole.

This is an opportunity to ease the burden on military families and is a key element in retention of military members. The Nurse Licensure Compact is an appropriate step in the right direction. Therefore, I offer this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Torrence W. Saxe".

TORRENCE W. SAXE Maj Gen AKNG
The Adjutant General - Alaska

Jody Simpson

From: John Lloyd [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 6:16 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services; sharon.walsh@alaska.gov
Subject: SB 67

February 22,2021

This letter is to show support for SB 67 which would provide Multistate Nurse Licensure and would have the outcome of strengthening the state's healthcare delivery.

This will help Alaska fill nursing vacancies across the state.

With the passage of SB 67, the cost to healthcare facilities, individual providers, and the state government can be reduced, while keeping the standard of licensure high.

As a member of the Alaska State Chiropractic Board I support this bill.

John Lloyd DC

Jody Simpson

From: Vallespir, Lauren F <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 6:15 AM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: compact license

Hello,

I have been a nurse in critical access hospital in Alaska for the past 10 years. I am originally from Portland, Oregon and enjoy traveling home several times a year. Allowing for compact nursing license would incentivize nurses to come to Alaska to work. We are in an extreme staffing shortage; our license renewal is one of the most expensive and can be a deterrent for nurses to travel here and then to remain here. We need all the help we can get, especially in the critical access settings.

Traveler nurses bring great value and expertise, we are always learning from them. Please help us get and retain nurses by making our license part of a compact license with other states to get us the help we need.

Thank you,

Lauren Vallespir BSN, WCC
Providence Valdez Medical Center
House Supervisor,

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February 23, 2021

Senator David Wilson, Chair
Senate Health & Social Services Committee
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: SB67 Support

Dear Senator David Wilson and Members of the Senate Health & Social Services Committee,

Single-state licensures model limits mobility of nurses, workforce stability, and access to care for patients. Interstate health professional compacts play an important role in workforce stability and increasing patient access to quality healthcare while reducing regulatory burdens that prevent health professionals from providing care in multiple states. AARP Alaska strongly supports participation in the Nurse Licensure Compact to help improve health care access for older Alaskans. Alaska should join the thirty-four states have already adopted the multistate compact.

The health care provider shortage hits older consumer hard. Older adults frequently lack the ability and resources to get to their appointments because of mobility issues, long travel distances to a provider and wait times for appointments. This puts their health at risk and adds stress to family caregivers.

The Nursing Compact is a common-sense way to encourage nurses to provide care both in-person or through telehealth technologies in multiple states, connecting patients in need of care and their family caregivers with qualified primary care. Nurses would be able to practice across state lines without the cost or unnecessary delay of applying for separate licenses. This helps efficiently expand access, which is particularly helpful in underserved areas.

The Nursing License Compact has emerged as an even more critical update to Alaska healthcare delivery this past year during the pandemic. Already critical skilled nursing shortages became dire. Notably, during such a time as this or during a natural disaster, as part of the Nursing Licensure Compact, vital nursing care could be delivered in Alaska without waiting for a declaration of emergency.

Respectfully,
Marge Stoneking
Advocacy Director, AARP Alaska

Jody Simpson

From: Brian Larson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Support for the Nursing Licensing Compact, Senate Bill 67

Dear Senators of the Health & Social Services Committee:

Thank you for hearing this SB 67, and hopefully it will move forward with your support. The Nursing Licensing Compact will significantly aid the citizens of Alaska by helping streamline the licensing process for nurses coming to Alaska, especially in times of emergency and critical need as we have experienced with COVID-19.

This bill will also serve as a template for extending such licensing procedure to other disciplines of health care, such as dental, chiropractic, and physical therapy at a time when we are seeing practicing primary care physician numbers dwindling in the state.

I am a practicing chiropractic physician, specializing in sports injuries, and have served on the Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners for four years, the last two as chair of the board. My commission has been extended for four more years as well as the chairmanship for the next two. I am not speaking on behalf of the Chiropractic Board of Examiners as we have not yet had an opportunity to poll the board for support of this bill. But the perspective of dealing with the licensing process of new and relocating professionals prompts my support for this progress in the licensing process for nurses, and the potential to streamline the process for other professions as well. Please move this bill forward.

Thank you for your time and energy expended on behalf of the people of the State of Alaska. We look forward to a great and productive legislative season, especially in the challenging times facing our Great State.

Sincerely,

Brian E. Larson, D.C., DACBSP
Chair, Alaska Board of Chiropractic Examiners



February 24, 2021

The Honorable David Wilson
Chair, Senate Health and Social Services Committee
State Capitol Room 115
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Senate Bill 67

Dear Chairman Wilson:

The Alliance for Connected Care (the Alliance) is an advocacy organization dedicated to facilitating the delivery of high-quality care using connected care technology. Our members are leading health care and technology companies from across the health care spectrum, representing insurers, health systems and technology innovators, and our Advisory Board includes more than 25 patient and provider groups.

We are writing to express our support for Senate Bill 67. This legislation would allow Registered and Licensed Practical Nurses from 34 states to practice in Alaska as part of a Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact. These registered and practical nurses would not be subject to the burdensome licensing process. The bill would also allow nurses in Alaska to practice in those 34 participating states. Opening up Alaska to licensed nurses will help provide needed access to care across the state.

The increase in use of telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted its ability to fill gaps in patient access to care. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, all 50 states and the District of Columbia used emergency authority to waive some aspect(s) of state licensure requirements to facilitate patients getting care. This has provided an unprecedented opportunity for patients, providers, and policymakers to explore the impact of cross-state care. This has benefited the delivery of health care in many ways, but perhaps most notably, it has opened up many new avenues for patient choice and access to care. Now is the time to build on this momentum.

One of the biggest barriers to telehealth becoming a regular patient and provider choice is the administrative burden caused by the variation in licensure requirements from state to state. Alleviating such administrative burdens through establishing multistate compacts that have reciprocity and that do not require additional licensing will help improve patient access to quality health care. It will also expand access to underserved communities in Alaska who may not have access to services they need where they reside.

We hope the Senate Health and Social Services Committee will support SB 67. Thank you for your consideration, we look forward to working with you on this important effort. Please contact Tharini Sathiamoorthy at 202-262-2511 or tharini.sathiamoorthy@connectwithcare.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Krista Drobac".

Krista Drobac
Executive Director
Alliance for Connected Care

Jody Simpson

From: Richard Wein <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Cc: Walsh, Sharon J (CED)
Subject: Support for SB 67 to allow Alaska to join the Nurse Licensure Compact

Good Afternoon,

Though the Alaska State Medical Board has not addressed the issue of the Nursing Board joining the Nursing Licensure Compact as a whole, I am as an individual voicing my support for this Board of Nursing quest. The Licensure Compact offers the Nursing Board an opportunity to reduce the enormous credentialing burden it faces everyday—pandemic or not. Joining would clearly improve work flows and all the benefits that would accrue.

Respectfully yours,
Richard Wein, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Member of the Alaska State Medical Board

Jody Simpson

From: Brad and Kym <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2021 8:49 PM
To: Senate Health and Social Services
Subject: Copy of my support of SB67

I sent this to the committee directly and this is the body of the message

Hello,

I am writing in support of SB67. I am an Optometrist in Alaska, and also a member of our State Board of Optometry Examiners. Mobility across state lines should be easier for health care practitioners including nurses. I have found in my profession that requirements for initial licensure are very similar from state to state.

As an additional note I have heard rumors of the emergency telehealth order being possibly made permanent. Telehealth is very different than in person office visits for most healthcare professionals. I would voice my extreme opposition to that issue. It would undermine Alaskan healthcare providers who have spent years, capital, and dedication to our local populations to be able to care for our patients. Opening up the virtual borders to any provider in the country will cause a failure of many healthcare centered small businesses in Alaska. Please consider these comments when the issue comes up on your agenda.

Thank you for your time,
Bradley Cross OD