

March 17, 2023

Jim Puente  
Director, Nurse Licensure Compact  
National Council of State Boards of Nursing  
111 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2900  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Mr. Puente:

The Missouri Hospital Association, on behalf of its 141 member hospitals, would like to provide comments on the benefit the Nurse Licensure Compact has brought to Missouri. The Compact was implemented in Missouri in January 2018, after the enactment by the twenty-sixth state. MHA has collaborated with the Missouri State Board of Nursing to raise awareness on the flexibilities afforded by the Compact and the importance of utilizing e-Nursys. We look forward to continuing that collaboration as we look to reduce barriers to health care workforce recruitment and retention.

Hospitals are the largest employer of nurses in the state. The ability to secure nurses in a timely manner is critical to ensuring patients have access to quality care. The Compact's value was fully realized during the COVID-19 pandemic response. The Board of Nursing, unlike some other boards, did not have to waive many licensure requirements and processes due to the number of nurses possessing a multi-state license. Their timely response to most licensure requests allowed hospitals to remain focused on patient care and other licensure boards instead of nurse licensure issues. Additionally, prior implementation and utilization of the Nursys platform allowed participating hospitals to quickly confirm nurse licensure and stay abreast of issues. Having a single location to verify licensure and stay abreast of disciplinary issues streamlines response by human resource personnel and reduces workload. It also allows nurses an easy access platform for license renewal and information sharing.

MHA is pleased to provide comment in support of the Compact. We look forward to continued collaborations and enhancements. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions.

Sincerely,



Sarah Willson  
Vice President of Clinical and Regulatory Affairs

sw/pt