

Dear House Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is Joleen Corlis. I am a nurse in the state of Alaska. I have been practicing in Alaska for the last ten years. I am asking that HB 149 be rejected. It would hurt nurses collective bargaining powers. HB 149 could endanger patients because of the lack of regulatory body related to disciplinary action. Please reject HB 149.

Thank you,  
Joleen Corlis RN, BSN, CEN, CCRN

To the legislators on the Labor and Commerce Committee,

My name is William Ivory. I have been a Registered Nurse in the State of Alaska for the past 10 years. I am writing to you in opposition to HB 149. While joining the nurse licensure compact facilitates matters for hospitals administrators and their corporate shareholders, it does not benefit the nurses who do the work in those hospitals. It imperils our ability to collectively bargain by facilitating the hiring of outside, temporary nurses. It also endangers our patients by opening the door to outside nurses who are more difficult to vet and discipline for poor practices. This bill is not in the best interest of either the nursing workforce of Alaska, nor the patients that we care for. I ask that you reject this bill and protect both the nurses of our state and our patient population.

William Ivory, RN, MSN, CCRN-CMC  
Anchorage, AK

Dear Representative Sumner and committee members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Nurse License Compact (NLC) and to urge you to vote against it. As a concerned citizen and a professional nurse, I believe that this compact would have serious negative consequences for the nursing profession and for patient safety.

The NLC would allow nurses to practice in multiple states without obtaining additional licenses. While this may sound like a convenient way to expand access to healthcare, it would actually compromise patient safety by decreasing the ability of states to regulate the qualifications, standards and conduct of nurses within their borders. Each state has unique standards of practice and regulations that ensure patient safety, and the NLC would undermine this critical protection of not only the general population but also other healthcare members.

Firstly, the NLC would lower the standards of nursing education and practice by allowing nurses to bypass state-specific requirements. This could result in nurses practicing without the necessary knowledge and training to provide safe and effective care to patients. This can be especially important in Alaska, where there are unique patient needs that are often misunderstood by travelers.

Secondly, the NLC would jeopardize patient safety by creating a patchwork of licensing standards across states. It would also make it more difficult for state nursing boards to discipline nurses who engage in unprofessional conduct or who have a history of malpractice. Not only could this lead to large and unnecessary legal fees that could have been prevented with due diligence, it would make it difficult to track these nurses and prevent future harm.

As a healthcare professional and a concerned citizen, I urge you to oppose the Nurse Licensure Compact in our state. It is our responsibility to ensure that patients receive the highest quality of care possible, and this proposal would put that goal in jeopardy. We need to maintain high standards for nursing practice and prioritize patient safety above all else.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and prioritizing the safety and health of the Alaska citizens.

Sincerely,

Hello,

My name is Gretchen M. Wade and I am a Registered Nurse living in the Sand Lake area of Anchorage. I am a lifelong Alaskan and RN with 24 years of experience working in hospitals in Sitka, Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Nome in addition to having served as a Public Health Nurse throughout the Seward Peninsula.

I am proud to be a member of the most trusted profession in the United States. If our licensing process needs to be improved, instead of outsourcing it to a private organization that does not represent our Alaskan values and for which we have no authority, I recommend funding the Board of Nursing so that they can fulfill their obligation to license nurses in a timely manner in Alaska

It is an absolute myth that the nursing shortage will be solved by joining the Nurse Licensure Compact. Nurses will be able to leave as easily as they will be able to arrive. The only thing that will solve the nursing shortage is more nurses joining the profession than the number of nurses leaving the profession due to retiring and burnout.

Hospitals in the urban areas are able to attract capable and competent nurses from far and wide. They should be held accountable for the incredibly high turnover rates that reflect, among other things, job dissatisfaction. When hospitals started using the term “productive hours” to refer to patients, something was slowly stolen from the profession. Perhaps this is the true root of the nursing ‘shortage’.

There is no reason for Alaska to give up our sovereign licensing board and its duties. I urge you to oppose HB 149 and put it to rest for the last time. This has been tried before and, just like sour milk, it hasn’t gotten any better with age.

Thank you,  
Gretchen M. Wade, RN

April 13, 2023

House Labor and Commerce Committee  
AK State Legislature

Subject: Opposition to HB 149 (Multistate NURse Licensure Compact)

Dear Members of the House Labor and Commerce Committee:

I am practicing Internal Medicine physician in Anchorage, Alaska and have been in practice in Alaska since 2002. Of course I rely heavily on Nurses as a crucial part of the health care team day in and day out. We have so many amazing dedicated nurses across this great state. Granted there is a Nursing shortage in Alaska as there is nationwide.

I have spoken to many nurse colleagues and have learned that they do not support this Compact. I stand with Alaska nurses and the Alaska Nurses Association and oppose the Compact.

Recruitment is not as much the issue, as is retention. The Compact will not address that issue and could undermine existing Alaska nurses careers.

Please listen to Alaska Nurses and oppose HB 149.

Sincerely,

Michael K Mraz MD MPH

Dear Legislators,

In Alaska we believe in and advocate for home rule. It has only been a few decades since Statehood when we decided to throw our lot in with the United States. Since then we have been beset by Outside agencies more interested in their possibilities of making a buck and hoping Alaskans would not recognize them for the carpetbaggers they are. Unfortunately we find ourselves in one of those positions right now. HB 149: Nursing Licensure; Multistate Compact would have us release Alaska governance of nursing licensure to an Outside, private, non-regulatory, non-governmental trade group which can adopt rules and assess payments from states. Not only would Alaska be beholden to make these payments but any revenue from licensing would go to the Compact and not to the State of Alaska. Sounds like a rip-off to me.

In recent years degree factories selling fraudulent nursing degrees have arisen in the States. According to Operation Nightingale over 7,600 candidates have been awarded fraudulent nursing degrees. Should the Compact hire and send these imposters to Alaska, we as citizens and a legislative body could do nothing to stop the practice. Would you and your family feel safe knowing that your care provider might not be a legitimately credentialed, trained practitioner?

HB 149 is fraught with danger. Please. If you value your health and that of your family, do not allow this misguided, financially irresponsible, medically disastrous bill pass. We do best when we as Alaskans act in the interest of Alaska. HB 149 only benefits Outside interests to the dangerous detriment of all Alaskans. Dump it!

Jan Carolyn Hardy, President

Alaska AFSCME Retiree Chapter 52

The Honorable Jesse Sumner  
Chairman  
House Labor & Commerce Committee  
120 Fourth Street, Room 3  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**RE: Opposition to HB 149, Nurse Licensure Compact**

To The Honorable Jesse Sumner:

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Nurses Association to oppose HB 149, the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact. The Oregon Nurses Association is a nurses union and professional association representing over 16,000 health care workers and providers, including registered nurses, advanced practice nurses, and allied health workers. Our members work in urban and rural hospitals, clinics, school-based health centers, home health care, and county health departments across Oregon. Oregon's legislature also considered the Multistate Compact this session but did not advance it, **as the risks are too great for the State of Oregon as they are for the State of Alaska.**

**No Measurable Improvement to Nursing Workforce:** A major argument by proponents of the Compact is the change will help Alaska deal with its nursing shortage. Unfortunately, there is no meaningful evidence to suggest that joining the Nurse Licensure Compact would help. The nursing shortage exists nationwide, and joining the Compact will not suddenly nor magically bring a flood of nurses to Alaska to fill vacancies at needy facilities. Furthermore, the Compact is a door that swings both ways—joining the Compact will likely contribute to a nurse shortage when Alaska resident nurses decide to leave the state and become travelers.

**The Nurse Licensure Compact has no mechanism to identify or monitor nurses coming into a state** to practice from another participating Compact state. **First**, there are worrisome inconsistencies between states regarding standards for nurses – including for initial and continuing education, criminal offenses, and disciplinary action. The Compact would allow out-of-state nurses practicing in Alaska to circumvent the state's high standards, jeopardizing the high-quality patient care that Alaskans currently receive. These factors altogether hinder the State's ability to protect the public. **Second**, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been investigating thousands of nurses accused of paying money to receive diplomas without actually completing the courses. The fake diplomas and transcripts qualified those who

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Fax: 503-293-0013 Email: [ona@oregonrn.org](mailto:ona@oregonrn.org) · Web: [www.OregonRN.org](http://www.OregonRN.org) ONA is an affiliate of the American Nurses Association, AFT  
and AFL-CIO

purchased them to sit for the national nursing board exam created by the entity that issues the multistate licenses for Compact states. Like in the example above, if Alaska were to join the Compact, our Board would not be so readily able to identify and take appropriate action against these individuals, which is incredibly important given that nationally Several states are currently facing this problem.

**Sincerely,**

Paige Spence