

Good Afternoon.

I am a licensed RN in Alaska and am unwaveringly—wholeheartedly—in support of HB 149 so Alaska can join the NLC. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tonja “Renee” King

April 6, 2023

House Labor & Commerce Committee  
State Capitol Room 124  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov)

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Jennifer Twito and I am a practicing nurse in Alaska. I urge you to pass HB 149 so Alaska can join the multistate nurse licensure compact (NLC). I can say firsthand that Alaska is plagued by nursing shortages and, unlike everywhere else, it takes months to get licensed in our state.

Enacting reciprocity with 39 other states and jurisdictions through the NLC is what we want and need. Allowing 3-to-4-month delays for licensing nurses not only hurts me and my colleagues, it hurts our patients. The process for obtaining a temporary or permanent license greatly delays employee start times, and creates frustrations causing out of state nurses to decline job offers from our facility. This not only affects our ability to provide our patients with quality and safe care, but it pushes our current nurses into overtime, working understaffed, and increases burnout. Following the pandemic, nurse turnover rates are at an all-time high across the nation. Alaska must do something now to ease the burden of lengthy delay for licensure.

If you ask nurses directly, we overwhelmingly support the NLC and why wouldn't we? This was demonstrated in a 2019 survey from the Board of Nursing that showed 92% support. Attracting more nurses to our state and getting them to work faster is exactly what we need. 39 other states and jurisdictions use this, and it is time Alaska does the same.

Thank you,

Jennifer Twito BSN RN  
Director of Staff Development and Education Services  
Bartlett Regional Hospital  
3260 Hospital Drive

Juneau, AK 99801

April 10, 2023

House Labor & Commerce Committee  
State Capitol Room 124  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov)

Chair Sumner and Committee Members,

On behalf of St. Elias Specialty Hospital, I am asking you to support HB 149 and Alaska joining the nurse licensure compact (NLC). While Alaska is facing workforce challenges across all industries, I want to tell you about what we are seeing in healthcare delivery.

I cannot fill job openings for virtually all job types, and nurse openings are some of the most challenging. Nurses are vital for ensuring access to healthcare, and in Alaska, it is well documented that we are on track to lead the nation with the biggest shortfall of nurses.

In my facility, not having enough nurses available, limits access to specialty care for Alaskans recovering from critical illnesses and/or in need of intensive inpatient rehabilitation services. At any given point 20- 30% of our licensed beds are under utilized due to staffing limitations, limiting access to care for Alaskans. For Alaskans recovering from devastating injuries, not having access to the right specialty care at the right time can lead to put a ceiling on recovery of mobility and self-care, and also lead to poor quality outcomes.

Alaska cannot produce enough nurse graduates to fill the gaping hole in demand, and our licensing process, which takes 3 to 4 months for nurses, is not serving Alaska's healthcare needs.

It is time to modernize and look at what the rest of the country is doing around licensure. It is clear a vast majority of states have moved toward reciprocity for licensure, and joining the nurse licensure compact is our opportunity to align with best practices across the country.

I urge you to please pass HB 149.

**Jessica Oswald**

Administrator  
Providence St. Elias Specialty Hospital

To whom it may concern,

I'm a licensed nurse in Alaska and I'm supportive of HB 149 so Alaska can join the NLC!

Hopeful and excited for this to come to fruition.

Chris Collier

I'm a licensed nurse in Alaska and I'm supportive of HB 149 so Alaska can join the NLC.

Judy Pauly

I'm a licensed nurse in Alaska and I'm supportive of HB 149 so Alaska can join the NLC.

CheyeAnn Carstensen

I'm a licensed nurse practitioner in Alaska and I'm supportive of HB 149 so Alaska can join the NLC.

Rachael Langerman MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC

Please pass the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) Legislation. It will help staffing shortages, keep Alaska nurses in Alaska, and take stress off over-worked nurses.

Mark Turner, RN  
Homer, Alaska

Good afternoon,

My name is Erin McAulay. I am a registered nurse in Fairbanks, Alaska. I am writing today to encourage you to support House Bill 149 which will allow Alaska nurses to have a Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact to assist in national crises, as well as make it easier for out-of-state nurses to come to Alaska in our time of need.

In my current experience, it takes 6-8 weeks for a nurse coming to Alaska to have their license transferred to be able to practice here which delays hiring and start times. Being a member of the Nurse Licensure Compact would shorten these times drastically. Please take the time to learn about this important bill and what it would mean for all Alaskans.

Best regards,

Erin McAulay, RN

I have worked in healthcare in Alaska since I was 17 years old and am proud to be a registered nurse working at South Peninsula Hospital since 2015. I strongly support House Bill 149.

Kristin Shover

I'm a licensed nurse in Alaska and I'm supportive of HB 149 so Alaska can join the NLC.

Leilo Daugherty

To whom it may concern;

I'm a licensed nurse in Alaska and I'm supportive of HB 149 so Alaska can join the National Licensing Compact.

Thank you,  
Lorie Lawrence

April 12, 2023  
House Labor & Commerce Committee  
State Capitol Room 124  
Juneau, AK 99801  
[House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov](mailto:House.Labor.And.Commerce@akleg.gov)

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Amber Henderson and I am a Registered Nurse in Wasilla, Alaska. I am writing today in support of HB 149, enabling Alaska to join the multi-state nurse licensure compact. I have personally experienced the severity of the nursing shortage in Alaska, and have seen the difficulties and unnecessary delays that nurses from other states have faced during the process of getting licensed in Alaska. We need the flexibility and sustainability that multi-state licensure would give us.

As is, experienced RNs who are fully competent and willing to work are forced to wait months before becoming licensed to practice in Alaska. I know multiple nurses personally who have applied for Alaska licensure, but ended up finding nursing positions in other states because it took so long to become licensed, and they were unable financially to continue waiting on the Board of Nursing before being able to go back to work. This unnecessary delay not only hurts my coworkers and me, it also hurts our patients. Low staffing leads to poorer patient outcomes, increased burnout and higher staff turnover. Nurses and CNAs are pulling overtime, taking heavier patient loads, and working longer hours, which means it takes longer for us to respond to patient call lights, give medications, and round on our patients to make sure they're safe. It increases the occurrence of patients falling or becoming injured, as well as the risk of medication errors because nurses are rushed, distracted, and overwhelmed. It means longer emergency room waits before receiving care. It means that the patient who feels scared, overwhelmed, and lonely doesn't have anyone to sit and comfort them because all of the staff are too busy. It means nurses are so exhausted and spread so thin that we're not able to show up emotionally for our patients and provide them with the compassionate care they deserve. Unfortunately, it means many qualified, excellent nurses have left bedside nursing altogether due to the toll that burnout and exhaustion has taken on their mental wellbeing, which only worsens our nursing shortage.

Per a 2019 survey from the Board of Nursing, 92% of nurses supported joining a multistate NLC. Passing HB 149 will streamline the process for nurses to join the Alaska workforce and will be immensely helpful in mitigating the current nursing shortage across the state. This is what our nurses need. This is what our patients need. This is what Alaska desperately needs for a brighter, healthier tomorrow. Please consider supporting HB 149 for the future wellness of our beautiful state.

Thank you,  
Amber Henderson, RN