

To those with the House, Labor and Commerce,

I'm writing to you to ask you to support House Bill 149 going up for consideration which would include the State of Alaska in compact licensure agreements for licensed nurses along with multiple states in the US of A. As a Registered Nurse licensed in my home state of Oklahoma as well as Alaska due to my husband's active-duty status in The United States Air Force, I feel I have ground to speak on this matter of importance. I have held my nursing license for 16 years and have experience in multiple leadership roles including my time in Alaska where hiring and managing staffing has been one of my responsibilities. Of familiarity for all Alaskans is the challenge of supply and limitations with personnel. This is particularly pertinent to the nursing profession in this state where there are many holes and not nearly as many nurses to go in them. Patient and staff safety is the priority always and is not always protected without the evidence-based number of licensed staff to fit in any given ratio. This truly is a reality of health care facilities everywhere. Alaska is harder to fill than any other place I have heard of regarding nursing.

When people are looking to relocate to work here, be it temporarily or of a permanent status, it is my experience that the process of licensing these professionals is unnecessarily lengthy, difficult and problematic. In my 5 years of residency in Alaska there has yet to be a time in my awareness where the Board of Nursing has been fully manned and not had a backlog. It is unusual to hear of an out-of-state licensed nurse not having to delay their start of work for their license in Alaska to be processed. Covid-19 made this already challenging status a severe issue where entire processes were developed to meet the baseline needs for nursing care for the state during the healthcare crisis.

Allowing for the inclusion with Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) would solve the issue of late start dates, staffing challenges due to waiting on a license for a hired professional to be legally allowed to start, and freer range for professional nurses to consider this state when they are looking for a new job and an adventure.

I fully support voting in favor of Alaska's inclusion with the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact (NLC) for nursing licenses and I ask that you be so as well.

Thank you kindly for your consideration,

Emily E. Enyeart MSN, RN, CAPA
Registered Nurse
Providence Imaging Center



Good afternoon,

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

Thank you,

Aminah Franklin