



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



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,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paige Spence", with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paige Spence

Director of Government Relations