



**FRESENIUS  
MEDICAL CARE**

**Support for SB 83|HB 85: Universal Temporary Licensure**

Fresenius Medical Care operates 9 dialysis facilities in Alaska and provides life-sustaining dialysis treatments to over 200 Alaskans with kidney failure. We support SB 83 which would implement temporary license processes for a variety of professionals.

We thank you for recognizing how temporary licenses assist in improving patients' access to quality and timely services. During COVID-19, the issue of access to care became particularly acute. When COVID-19 surges occurred, the ability to bring in qualified out-of-state health professionals quickly was critical for outpatient dialysis facilities to provide life-sustaining treatments for patients. We continue to experience staffing shortages of all types at our dialysis facilities, and some of them continue to be in tenuous circumstances for future operations. Temporary licenses are also key to helping our nurses, dietitians and social workers practice while they are waiting for their permanent licenses to process. There continues to be a backlog in license processing.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has strict requirements for registered nurses, licensed social workers and dietitians in the dialysis setting, requiring only those with dialysis experience to fill in during times of shortages, natural disasters, or other times when providing patient care across state boundaries may be necessary. Because our company operates in many states, we are able to move dialysis professionals to areas of greatest need quickly as circumstances may require. Nurses, social workers and dietitians all have similar licensing and educational requirements across all states, making them appropriate for temporary licenses and professional compacts.

We hope SB 83 may be a stepping stone to more professional compacts in Alaska. We have and will continue to support legislation for a nurse licensure compact. Model language for a social worker licensure compact is now available for any state interested in implementing it, and dietitian model compact language is anticipated to be available in 2024. We urge the Alaska legislature to implement these compacts.

For these reasons, we ask you to support SB 38 and HB 85.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Funk Schrag*

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